

NEWS CLIPPING

# Fugitives in cardinal killing held

## Mexico jails 6, including drug kingpin Guzman

By S. LYNNE WALKER, Copley News Service

MEXICO CITY — A major drug trafficker wanted in connection with the slaying of a Roman Catholic cardinal is in custody after being captured by Guatemalan authorities, Mexico's attorney general said yesterday.

The trafficker, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera, and five of his lieutenants were handed over to Mexican authorities late Wednesday in the southern Mexican border town of Tapachula, Attorney General Jorge Carpizo said.

Guzmán told police that he fled to Mexico City after the May 24 shooting at the Guadalajara airport left Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo and six other people dead. Guzmán hid in the capital for two days before taking a federal highway south to Chiapas state and then crossing the border into Guatemala, Carpizo said.

The arrests mark the first significant development in Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's "national crusade" to drive drug traffickers out of the country, Mexican and U.S. law-enforcement officials said.

"The arrest of El Chapo Guzmán and his associates constitutes a very important part of the investigation



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joaquín "El Chapo"  
Guzmán Loera

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# Capture

## Fugitives in killing of cardinal held

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into the homicide of Cardinal Posadas and six other people on that unfortunate 24th day of May," Carpizo said.

Guzmán, described as "smarter and more organized" than other drug kingpins operating here, "is probably the No. 1 trafficker in Mexico in terms of volume," said a U.S. drug enforcement officer.

"We're elated about the arrest because it shows that these drug traffickers cannot operate with impunity," the officer said.

The arrests capped a massive search by more than 200 agents for Guzmán and three other drug traffickers implicated in the Guadalajara shooting.

The Mexican government offered a \$5 million reward for the capture of Guzmán, fellow Sinaloa drug trafficker Héctor Salazar Palma and brothers Benjamín and Javier Arellano Félix, heads of the rival Tijuana cartel. Salazar Palma and the Arellano Félix brothers are still at large.

Jack Hook, spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) office in San Diego, said Benjamín Arellano Félix and Guzmán will be profiled today on the television show "America's Most Wanted." It airs at 8 p.m. on Channels 6 and 11.

Hook said Benjamín Arellano Félix "could very well be here" in San Diego.

"His wife and his son were seen shopping at Nordstrom in Mission Valley right after the shootings in Guadalajara," Hook said.

At a high-security prison outside Mexico City, the pudgy Guzmán told reporters during a televised interview yesterday that he was

just a farmer from the state of Sinaloa. He denied knowing Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo, a drug lord jailed in 1989 with whom Guzmán is alleged to have been affiliated.

Guzmán, whose trademark mustache was shaved after he was taken into custody, spoke with reporters for 15 minutes as a steady rain pelted his jacket. He was surrounded by what one reporter described as a "curtain of security" and two attack dogs.

He has not been charged in the Guadalajara shooting, but he is wanted for a long list of crimes, including drug trafficking, kidnapping, criminal association and murder. The federal Attorney General's Office links him to Colombian cocaine barons and to heroin traffickers as far away as Thailand.

Guzmán was said by drug-enforcement officials to have built the highly sophisticated 1,500-foot cocaine-smuggling tunnel between Tijuana and the Otay Mesa border crossing. Police found the tunnel this month while investigating the cardinal's shooting.

Guzmán faces two federal indictments in the United States, one in Pennsylvania for money laundering and smuggling several tons of Thai heroin, the other for having built another smuggling tunnel from Mexico that was discovered under Douglas, Ariz., in May 1990.

While Guzmán apparently did not admit to any drug involvement during interviews with authorities after his capture, he did say that he was at the Guadalajara airport May 24 when the shooting took place.

Guzmán said that when as he got out of his car to catch a flight to Puerto Vallarta one of his bodyguards spotted armed men getting out of their cars in the parking lot. Among the men, Guzmán said, were Benjamín and Javier Arellano Félix.

Guzmán and his bodyguard escaped unharmed in a taxi. But the cardinal, who was the Catholic archbishop of Guadalajara, was not

so lucky.

Authorities say they believe that he was killed in a bungled assassination attempt against Guzmán by a rival Tijuana drug cartel headed by the violent Arellano Félix brothers. Posadas was traveling in a car identical to the one Guzmán was expected to use and was killed by mistake, the Attorney General's Office said.

The Arellano Félix brothers escaped on a commercial flight to Tijuana that was held for them.

In Chula Vista on Wednesday night, members of Operation Alliance, a law-enforcement group made up of federal and local police agencies in San Diego County, arrested a man suspected of being involved in the May 24 massacre.

DEA spokesman Hook said officers arrested the suspect, Juan Carlos Mendoza Castillo, 21, while searching for a fugitive in an unrelated drug case at a Chula Vista home.

Because he was in the country illegally and is not a wanted man in the United States, Operation Alliance turned Mendoza over to Mexican federal police after he agreed to return voluntarily to Mexico, Hook said.

It was the second reported involvement of people linked to San Diego County with the cardinal kill-

ing. Two Logan Heights gang members are jailed in Mexico City in connection with the case.

Carpizo said drug traffickers have apparently been assisted in moving large quantities of cocaine, heroin and marijuana through Mexico by high-ranking officials in the state and federal police.

The chief of the Federal Judicial Police in the state of Jalisco and four other top officers were arrested earlier this week on charges of receiving protection money from drug traffickers. The police officers and two civilians were jailed on charges of receiving money, arms and vehicles from drug traffickers, the Attorney General's Office said.

"We have traitors" in the Federal Judicial Police, Carpizo told the Justice Committee in the lower House of Deputies on Monday.

"The truth must be told," he said.

The attorney general hinted that he was under tremendous pressure to back off the investigation. Some elements in the police even want him out of office, Carpizo said.

But he vowed to continue his efforts to put the drug traffickers out of business.

Staff Writers Fernando Romero and Gregory Gross contributed to this story.

## *Drug haul tied to Guzman*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Police yesterday seized more than six tons of cocaine worth an estimated \$205 million, the largest seizure in the history of the country.

Salvadoran police said they arrested four Mexicans believed to belong to the gang controlled by Joaquín Guzmán Loera, a Mexican who was captured in Guate-

mala and turned over Wednesday to Mexican authorities.

The drugs, found in a warehouse north of the capital, were taken after police from a special narcotics unit used dynamite to blast their way into the building. Police said the drugs had been smuggled from Colombia.

The cocaine was packed in 182 boxes, each containing 15 packages, police said.

# Mexico's drug war spills out of Baja

*U.S. gang members  
join the drug lords*

By **KELLY THORNTON**  
Staff Writer

The bloody turf war between Mexican drug families has spilled into San Diego with execution-style murders and the recruitment of local gang members as assassins, local and federal officials say.

Police believe there may be links between Mexican drug trafficking and at least a dozen slayings in San Diego, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach and National City.

And, in the latest twist, Mexican authorities have arrested two documented members of a Logan Heights gang who are suspected of participating in the fatal shooting of a Roman Catholic cardinal at the Guadalajara airport.

San Diego police believe the gang members' suspected participation in the May 24 slaying of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo suggests that gangs in San Diego County may be extensively involved in Mexican drug trafficking.

Authorities say the two gang members, Juan Basones Hernandez, 18, and Ramon Torres Mendez, 23, were arrested in Tijuana and are now in a Mexico City jail. They are believed to have been recruited by a gang member who served as a middleman for the Arellano Felix brothers.

The Arellano brothers control drug dealing along Baja California's northern border and apparently hired the gang members to fend off a challenge from drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman of Sinaloa, investigators believe.

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# Drug lords

In the drug wars,  
border has disappeared

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The assassins mistook the cardinal for Guzman, the intended target, the sources said.

Earlier this week, representatives of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI met with San Diego police gang detectives to verify the identities of Basones and Torres.

"We found the people in our files," said a police source. "Two local gang members were involved in the shooting of the cardinal. (The drug families are) recruiting gang members to do their dirty work."

The Logan Heights gang has about 450 members who police say have until now been mostly involved in stabbings, drive-by shootings, fights and other street-gang activities. But authorities say an alignment with Mexican drug traffickers is emerging.

"If those two are involved, there must be others involved also," said a San Diego police source. "These gang members do not act alone."

The police source said authorities are noticing a shift in Latino gangs from feuding to drug dealing. "The gang members — the 18- to 24-year-olds — are not involved in gangs like they used to be," the source said. "They're involved in narcotics."

Meanwhile, homicide detectives in San Diego and the South Bay and Mexico are investigating a string of execution-style killings in which the victims were shot in the head at close range.

In Chula Vista, the killings in March included two double murders and another slaying, during what one officer described as a 10-day period of "unprecedented violence."

"We're looking at all of those in tandem with the Mexican authorities to see if they're related in any way with the problems they're having south of the border," said Chula Vista police Sgt. Eugene d'Ablaing.

Authorities say they don't know

whether drugs were a motive in the recent rash of slayings countywide, but they say it's clear drug lords no longer respect the international border.

"We're only getting a flavor of what's been going on in Mexico for a long time now," d'Ablaing said. "They don't think the border is a boundary anymore. You can go back and forth with ease."

San Diego police said drug-related crime from Mexico is increasing.

"It's a real concern of ours: crime that comes up from the border," another police source said. "Until one year ago, the border was respected. Now, a number of crimes, including homicides, occur here for problems south of the border."

"This thing about taking care of business no matter where it happens ... it used to be they just waited for the guy to come back down south. Now that border really disappears and they're taking care of business wherever."

The most recent Chula Vista slayings occurred on March 26, when two men were shot to death at close range in a red pickup truck.

Enrique Valltiera, 20, and Javier Velasco, 18, both of Tijuana, were found slumped in the cab of the truck parked on Santa Cruz Court near Southwestern Community College. Both had been shot in the head; witnesses said they heard at least five shots.

The bodies of Jose Luis Pedrosa, whose age is unknown, and Victor Armando Marron, 25, of Chula Vista, were found in a house on Josselyn Avenue on March 21. They had been shot repeatedly in the head.

And, on March 16, Jose Juvenal Bunrusto Gomez, 30, was slain and Joel Alberto Rincon, 24, was seriously wounded when a gunman shot the Chula Vista men outside a shopping complex on Main Street.

In San Diego, homicide Lt. Greg Clark said detectives believe five of the 53 criminal homicides reported this year have some connection to narcotics, and possibly to the Mexican drug families.

In the most recent killings in San Diego, Jose Avila-Juerta, 36, and Alberto Lopez Rivas, 54, were shot to death May 16 in a parking lot on Delta Street near 43rd Street in Barrio Logan.

# Warehouse near tunnel investigated

By LEONEL SANCHEZ  
Staff Writer

A Mexican businessman has been identified as the owner of an Otay Mesa warehouse building thought to be the destination point for a tunnel to smuggle drugs across the border.

But U.S. drug enforcement officials say there is no evidence to link Alberto Parra Zamora and the San Bernardino company that was building the warehouse to the so-called narco-tunnel.

"We may be jumping to conclusions that that building had anything to do with it," said Richard Gorman, special agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Gorman said the building was "on the up and up."

"There is nothing out of the ordinary built in there, no special things," he said. "But since that is the only building there right now, we are concentrating on it."

U.S. federal agents have asked Mexican authorities to find Parra Zamora for questioning, he said. He was believed to be in Tijuana.

In addition to Parra Zamora, federal agents want to question the owners of Tia Anita, the company that was going to lease space in the warehouse for a cannery, he said. He would not disclose the owners' names.

Authorities on both sides of the border believe the tunnel, which ends 50 feet from

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# Tunnel

## Investigators focus on warehouse

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the building in Otay Mesa, was intended for smuggling drugs into the United States by a Mexican narcotics family headed by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán and Héctor Luis "El Guero" Palma.

A map found inside one of Guzmán's safe houses in Tijuana led authorities to the tunnel. Guzmán and other suspected drug traffickers are being sought in the May 24

slaying of Mexican Catholic Cardinal Juan José Poracás Ocampo and six other people at Guadalajara International Airport.

Baja California Assistant Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu yesterday said Mexican engineers are discussing ways of sealing the narco-tunnel permanently. U.S. federal agents said it will be sometime before that is done, however, because of the ongoing investigation.

Little is known about Parra Zamora. According to San Diego County property records, he purchased the 3½-acre lot last October from a well-known San Diego businessman for \$1.1 million.

U.S. drug authorities believe he

lives in Sinaloa.

Parra Zamora made the deal for the land with Rocque de la Fuente, the records show.

They show the land was purchased from the De La Fuente Business Park, of which de la Fuente is vice president. The lot at 9012 Siempre Viva Road is at the corner of Avenida De La Fuente Sur.

The mailing address used by Parra Zamora in property records is that of Arlen Real Estate Development, a building contractor in Victorville.

Company owner Buddy Arlen Plaster acknowledged that Zamora contracted with his company to build a 60,000 square-foot building on the property.

Beyond what Plaster calls a legitimate business deal to construct the building, he said he doesn't know anything about Parra Zamora's background.

Plaster said he was reluctant to discuss Parra Zamora because of a meeting scheduled Monday with DEA agents.

Entire families may have been involved in digging the quarter-mile tunnel. Among the equipment found on the grounds of a triangle-shaped warehouse atop the tunnel was a large dump truck bearing a San Diego County sticker on one side with the words "Official Use Only" and the number 3900.

The truck was not stolen, Don Madison, county deputy fleet manager, said yesterday. As far as he could tell, it was never registered to the county.

"We cannot find any evidence, as far as we could check, that that truck was registered to a public agency at all," Madison said.

"Somebody apparently is trying to duplicate a county vehicle to make it look like it's for official county business," he said. "Isn't that interesting?"

Meanwhile Baja California Gov. Ernesto Ruffo Appel announced that he is turning over information gathered by state police on the drug cartels in the past two years directly to Mexico's Attorney General Jorge Carpizo McGregor. Ruffo said he did not want to give the information to the Federal Judicial Police because he did not trust them.

For years, critics have complained that the federal force is rife

# 2 die in Guadalajara shootout

## Mexico police seek cardinal's killers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — A spectacular shootout in the streets of this sprawling state capital yesterday wounded the state police chief and left two people dead as security forces stalked the killers of a Catholic cardinal.

The clash began a day after President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced a national war on illegal drugs and after police in Tijuana found an uncompleted, quarter-mile drug tunnel beneath the U.S. border.

City, state, federal and military police have been patrolling the streets of the Guadalajara area, sometimes raiding suspected smugglers' safe houses, since the May

24 assassination of Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo.

Late Thursday, a mixed group of police stumbled across several heavily armed men in a pickup who fled into a house in the Guadalajara suburb of Zapopan.

More than 150 policemen joined the shootout that continued into the early morning.

A military policeman, Enoch Camacho Pérez, and one of the suspects, Gildardo Anaya García, were killed, state police said. Among the eight people wounded was the state Judicial Police chief, Lt. Col. Antonio Bejos Camacho, who was grazed by a bullet.

Three people were arrested. But Jalisco state Gov. Carlos Rivera Aceves said it was too early to say if the group in the house was linked to the killing of Posadas.

Federal Attorney General Jorge Carpizo says the cardinal was mistakenly shot by members of a drug gang trying to kill a rival at Guadalajara's international airport.

Yesterday, Mexico's Roman Catholic bishops issued a joint declaration saying Carpizo's version seemed well-founded. "The hypothesis of a direct attack on the cardinal apparently cannot be supported," they said.

Security forces have mounted a nationwide manhunt for five of the drug gang leaders, plastering thousands of walls with posters offering a \$5 million reward for their capture and running repeated television commercials seeking the same.

"This is a fight by Mexico against an enemy of Mexico and the world," Salinas said Wednesday. "That's the only way the nation will get rid of this dangerous defect."

He called for legal reforms to make it easier to catch and prosecute smugglers.

The U.S. government estimates that 50 percent to 70 percent of all cocaine smuggled into the country comes through Mexico.

The Mexico City daily *La Jornada* said that as of Thursday, police had seized 11 houses or farms, 11 vehicles, a speedboat, a yacht and two planes — a Learjet and a Turbo Commander — from the drug bands suspected of killing the cardinal.

Among the property seized are a

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TUNNEL WAS FAMILY AFFAIR  
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Friday, June 4, 1993

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

# Digging border tunnel was family affair

## Living quarters found in Mexican warehouse

by GREGORY GROSS  
 Staff Writer

TIJUANA — Entire families — and at least one piece of heavy equipment from San Diego County — may have been involved in digging the quarter-mile "narco-tunnel" more than six stories beneath the U.S.-Mexico border.

Among the equipment found on the grounds of a triangle-shaped warehouse atop the tunnel entrance a quarter-mile east of Tijuana International Airport was a large dump truck bearing a San Diego County sticker on one side with the words "Official Use Only" and the number 3900.

The tunnel, unfinished on the American side, ends about 50 feet short of an industrial structure under construction near Drucker Avenue and Siempre Viva Road in Otay Mesa. Authorities have not named the owner of the property.

On the Mexican side of the border, the larger of the two warehouses on the tunnel

site had a definite lived-in look — upstairs rooms with piles of personal articles, children's clothing and baby toys; a downstairs room with bedding piled high and bed frames stacked nearby; a kitchen area with pots and pans bearing contents of a meal begun but never finished.

In one room, there are signs that the builders celebrated Christmas here — plastic wreaths and balls for decorating Christmas trees.

The tunnel, discovered Monday by agents of Mexico's Federal Judicial Police, apparently was intended for smuggling drugs into the United States by a Mexican narcotics family headed by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán and Hector Luis "El Güero" Palma.

The startling find was an outgrowth of the manhunt for Guzmán, Palma and the three Tijuana brothers who lead a rival drug smuggling faction. That group, led by Ramon, Benjamin and Javier Arellano Felix, is being sought in the May 24 slaying of Mexican Catholic Cardinal Juan José Posadas Ocampo and six other people at Guadalajara International Airport.

A map found inside one of Guzmán's safe

houses in Tijuana led to the discovery of the tunnel. Fourteen safe houses, belonging to both drug gangs, have been found, but only six people have been arrested in connection with the killing of Posadas. None is considered to be what Mexican authorities call the intellectual authors of the bloody airport attack.

Officials of the U.S. Customs Service, the Border Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration put on a show-and-tell for American television crews at the tunnel site yesterday, saying that more such tunnels may exist along the border and speculating that they might be used for more than just smuggling narcotics.

"We would have to be naive to think that there couldn't possibly be more tunnels like this in other places along the border, and a structure that's 65 feet down in the earth is not going to be easy to detect," said Julius Beretta, DEA agent in charge in National City.

Some officials speculated that such tunnels could be used for smuggling undocumented migrants into the United States.

That issue was discussed in response to

reporters' questions as to whether Mexican drug traffickers might now be trying to expand their operations to include smuggling of Chinese migrants.

Several boatloads of Chinese have been intercepted in recent weeks along the West Coast of the United States and elsewhere, each loaded with 200 or so Chinese trying to slip into the country.

Another 308 were apprehended near Ensenada last month, holed up in a warehouse. Mexican authorities believe their ultimate destination was San Francisco.

"These (drug cartel) people are opportunists," Beretta said. "They'll smuggle whatever they can make a profit on, and Chinese are very profitable right now."

With Federal Judicial Police continuing sweeps in Tijuana and Guadalajara in search of the cardinal's killers, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari called for a national crusade against drugs and drug trafficking.

"This is a fight by Mexico against an enemy of Mexico and the world," he said. "That's the only way the situation will get rid of this dangerous defect."

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DAVID McNEW / Los Angeles Times

A Mexican narcotics officer makes his way through a tunnel that originates in a Tijuana industrial area

and extends north, across the U.S. border. Police said the tunnel is the work of drug smugglers.

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# Mexico Finds Unfinished Drug Tunnel to U.S.

By SEBASTIAN ROTELLA  
and MARJORIE MILLER  
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

TIJUANA—Mexican police hunting the killers of a Roman Catholic cardinal have discovered a sophisticated cross-border tunnel that drug traffickers were building to smuggle narcotics into the United States, authorities said Wednesday.

The lighted and concrete-reinforced tunnel is strategically located between Tijuana's international airport and the Otay Mesa border crossing. Police sources estimate it was about 100 feet from completion. It originates beneath a warehouse in a Mexican industrial area housing hundreds of U.S.-owned assembly plants and extends almost 1,500 feet north and under the international border, authorities said.

"This would have been major," Jack Hook, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman in San Diego, said of the tunnel. "Law enforcement is lucky that it was caught at this point. They could have gotten tons through there without us knowing anything about it."

The attempt to camouflage the movement of narcotics amid trans-border commerce highlights an emerging concern of U.S. officials that Mexican and Colombian drug barons will exploit increased trade under a proposed North American Free Trade Agreement for smuggling purposes.

Investigators believe the multi-million-dollar tunnel was constructed by Mexico's top mafia chief, Joaquin (El Chapo) Guzman, the Sinaloa kingpin believed to have been the target in a shootout last week at the Guadalajara airport that killed Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo and six others.

Mexican federal judicial police tracking Guzman and his Tijuana

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# TUNNEL: Drug Passage

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rivals suspected in the cardinal's death made the discovery Monday during an extensive manhunt in this border city. In the last week, they have found at least 15 safehouses with underground chambers and vaults belonging to traffickers and an arsenal of high-powered weapons, including grenade launchers, automatic rifles and night scopes.

Information uncovered at one of the safehouses led investigators to the tunnel—only the second subterranean passageway under the U.S.-Mexico border ever discovered. Police officials believe the tunnel was to connect the warehouse in Tijuana to a second warehouse in Otay Mesa, an active commercial and industrial zone in south San Diego with round-the-clock truck traffic generated largely by the Tijuana assembly plants.

The border location would have provided perfect cover for a high-volume drug shipping operation, officials said.

On the U.S. side, there are a lot of warehouses, there are trucks coming and going at all hours of day and night," Hook said. "It would raise the least amount of suspicion for trucks to be coming and going at 2 in the morning. It would have looked like business as usual."

U.S. authorities are investigating the ownership of the U.S. warehouse under construction, although they emphasized they have not confirmed that was the intended

termination point of the tunnel. The site has a sign saying it belongs to the Tia Anita Canning Co.

The empty Tijuana warehouse belongs to a Mexican construction company believed to be owned by Guzman, according to a DEA agent familiar with the case.

**M**exican police located the tunnel by hammering through the building's concrete floor. They found a hidden basement and a ladder that led 65 feet underground to the tunnel entrance.

Police estimate that construction on the tunnel began at least six months ago and would have been completed in several months.

Construction crews apparently slept and ate in living quarters on the property. Police found a kitchen and mattresses for 20 people.

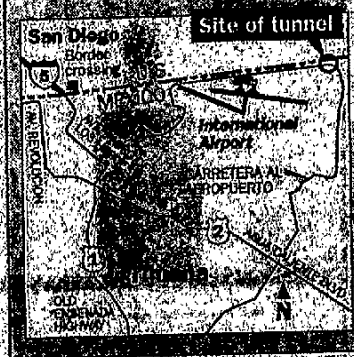
The workers used air-powered hammers and drilling equipment to cut their way through sandstone, officials said.

The tunnel is about five feet high and three feet wide, with a concrete floor and walls reinforced in sections by wood and concrete. A lighting system had been installed and air-conditioning units in the warehouse pumped oxygen into the hot and dank passage.

There have been no arrests linked to the warehouse, police said, although Mexican federal police led by their national commander, Rodolfo Leon Aragon, continue their weeklong investiga-

## Smugglers' Path

The tunnel, about 500 feet long, was discovered Monday in a warehouse in Tijuana, Mexico and the United States. It was discovered near the airport.



Los Angeles Times

tion. Several high-level members of trafficking organizations have been arrested, but none of the mafia bosses.

On Tuesday, Mexican Army Gen. Jose MacGregor made a television appearance to appeal to the public for help in capturing those the government believes are responsible for the cardinal's death.

When completed, the Tijuana tunnel could have fueled a surge in the drug supply to the world's largest drug market.

An estimated two-thirds of the cocaine consumed in the United States is shipped through Mexico from South America. Most of that flow passes through Baja California.

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newspaper, city and state)

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# 'Narco-Tunnel' discovered at border

By FERNANDO ROMERO  
and GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writers

**TIJUANA** — Mexican federal authorities have discovered a deep transborder tunnel here that was being built to smuggle drugs into the United States.

U.S. and Mexican officials say the tunnel, which is 65 feet deep and spans 1,450 feet from just inside the Mexican side of the border to a factory under construction along Siempre Viva

Road in Otay Mesa, could have been used to flood the U.S. with cocaine and other drugs.

"They could have smuggled multi-ton quantities of cocaine... and (all) would have gone undetected," said Jack Hook, spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The tunnel — dubbed "Narco-Tunnel" by agents and estimated to have cost between \$1.5 million and \$2 million — was being constructed from inside a nameless,

empty industrial building about a quarter of a mile east of the Tijuana international airport.

U.S. officials said the building is the property of Joaquin "Chapo" Guzmán Loera, one of four drug kingpins being sought in connection with the murders of Cardinal Juan José Posadas Ocampo and six others on May 24 in Guadalajara.

Hook said Mexican federal investigators sent to capture Guzmán and the other traffickers discovered documents at one of

Guzmán's safe houses pinpointing the tunnel's location.

Guzmán's building is a block long and triangle-shaped with high white walls and sky-blue doors. It has a large warehouse at one side, a smaller storehouse at the other, and an ample yard in the middle featuring a small cupola that apparently served as a lookout tower.

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# Tunnel

## Border drug route was professionally done

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The entrance to the tunnel is in the floor of an underground chamber below the warehouse floor. It can be entered from one of two small rooms that appear to have been set up as closets or bathrooms.

Yesterday, Mexican investigators displayed the sophisticated tunnel for the media.

An electrical hoist for a hemp rope with a six-inch-long steel hook is mounted directly over the 4-by-4½-foot tunnel entrance — a vertical shaft extending 65 feet, or about six stories, into the wet, sandy soil below the warehouse.

A ladder of squared steel tubing bolted together and attached to the face of the shaft, extends to the bottom, where the tunnel begins. The shaft is lined with concrete two-thirds of the way down.

At the tunnel entrance are three medium-sized pushcarts, probably used to carry away the tons of excavated earth. The floor for the first few dozen yards is covered with water.

It is a small tunnel, 4 feet wide by possibly 4½ feet high, not big enough for most people to stand up in. Light bulbs mark the path every 10 feet. The tunnel walls are shored up by wooden beams roughly every 20 feet. The tunnel walls are chiseled and bear marks suggesting the use of jackhammers.

The air is fresh and cool, thanks

to refrigerated air being pumped continuously in by a ventilation system powered by the warehouse's own diesel electric generators.

Roughly every 200 yards, there are small cavities in the tunnel walls to store equipment, such as plastic buckets, or to rest during the long and arduous passage from one end to the other.

"It was professionally done," said the DEA's Hook. "They just had a little farther to go before they would have been out from underneath (the U.S.) building."

Mexican and U.S. officials have not identified the owner of the unfinished building on Siempre Viva Road. Construction workers at the site said the building was slated to be a cannery and was to be finished in three months.

Meanwhile, Hook confirmed that U.S. authorities are trying to trace the means by which Guzmán apparently obtained first-line U.S. military weapons, including an M-16A2 assault rifle, M-203 grenade launchers and .50-caliber ammunition, discovered over the weekend in a safe house in Guadalajara.

The DEA also has been tracking down leads on the U.S. side of the border on behalf of the Federal Judicial Police, Hook said.

Asked if the drug lords being sought in Mexico could have slipped into the United States already, Hook replied:

"An organization capable of building this tunnel is certainly able to come up with fake passports and fictitious names. If they can do this tunnel, they can do just about anything."

The sophistication of Guzmán's tunnel equaled that of a similar one discovered in Douglas, Ariz., by

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Union-Tribune / JIM BURNETT

U.S. authorities in May 1990, said Mexican officials.

However, unlike Guzmán's, the tunnel in Douglas, which linked that town and Agua Prieta, in the state of Sonora, had been completed and was used to smuggle millions of dollars' worth of drugs for more than a year before it was discovered.

Mexican authorities have theorized that Cardinal Posadas, who was riddled with automatic weapons fire at point-blank range, was mistakenly shot by gunmen for the Arellano Félix brothers of Tijuana, who had been sent to kill Guzmán, one of their principal rivals in the drug trade.

A total of 20 men in Guadalajara and Tijuana, representing the two rival drug cartels, are being sought in connection with the May 24 slaying of the cardinal. Reinforced teams of Federal Judicial Police agents have been combing both cities in search of the fugitives.

So far, the search has led to the arrest of at least 15 people in Tijuana alone and the discovery of safe houses belonging to both organizations in both cities.

The "Narco-Tunnel" is an ominous sign, said Hook.

"How many more tunnels are out there that we don't know about?" he asked. "That's what really scary."

"The tunnel was very significant — it was not done by amateurs. It shows you the magnitude of the problems we have here in the United States. The demand (for drugs) has gotten to the point where these traffickers are attempting to find more ingenious ways (to smuggle drugs into the United States) to fill the insatiable appetite for drugs."

"Every person in this country who uses narcotics has the blood of the cardinal and the other people killed in Guadalajara on their hands because they have created the demand."

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## ANOTHER DRUG ROUTE



Authorities were tipped to this tunnel's location by papers found in a safe house belonging to a suspect in the murder of Cardinal Juan José Posadas Oramba. The tunnel is 65 feet deep and 1 450 feet long.

San Diego Union-Tribune / JOHN MCCUTCHE



NEWS CLIPPING

NAME OF NEWSPAPER:

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

DATE: Tuesday, 6/1/93

TITLE: Drug gangs eavesdrop on rivals

FILE NO:



# Drug gangs eavesdrop on rivals

## Mexican police discover gear to monitor calls

By GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

**TIJUANA** — The two rival drug gangs whose attempts to kill each other's leadership have left a Mexican cardinal and six others dead apparently have been using sophisticated electronic gear to monitor each other's movements, Mexican authorities reported yesterday.

In addition to the assault rifles, grenades and police and army uniforms being discovered in a series of safe houses, Mexican federal police are reporting finding devices designed to trace and monitor calls made from cellular telephones.

They also are finding sophisticated communications-monitoring equipment, walkie-talkies, tape recorders and pages upon pages of documents.

\*Using information provided by a man alleged to be one of the gunmen involved in the May 24 shooting of Cardinal Juan José Posadas Ocampo, federal police discovered three more safe houses in Guadalajara over the weekend and may have uncovered the location of a ninth safe house in Tijuana.

Heavily armed teams of Federal Judicial Police investigators so far have found eight safe houses in Tijuana thought to belong to the border cartel, led by the brothers Ramón, Javier and Benjamín Arellano. They also have discovered a safe house near the Agua Caliente racetrack belonging to the Arellanos' deadliest rival, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán.

Guzmán is a co-leader of the Sinaloa cartel along with Hector Luis "El Güero" Palma Salazar. Both men are being sought along with the Arellano brothers and 16 others in connection with the shooting at Guadalajara International Airport which killed the cardinal and six others.

In the three Guadalajara safe houses — all believed to belong to Guzmán — police found a variety of American, Soviet and

German assault rifles, as well as .50-caliber ammunition, used most often in heavy machine guns and highly specialized sniper rifles.

Furthermore, some of the weapons found in the Guzmán safe houses are the latest issue to U.S. combat troops, such as the M-16A2 assault rifle and an M-203 grenade launcher found slung beneath a modified AR-15 rifle, as well as Vietnamese weapons such as an M-79 grenade launcher for 40-mm grenades.

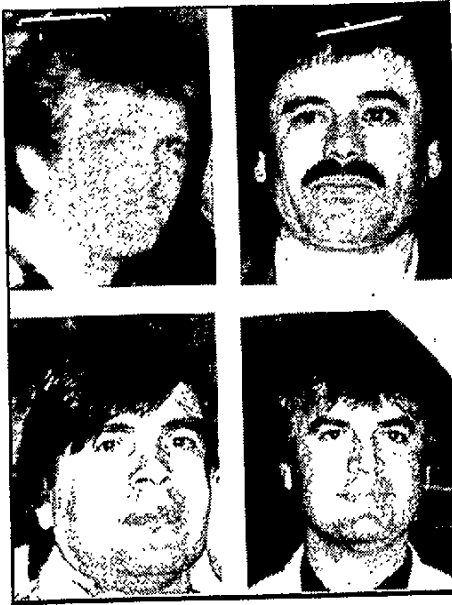
At least eight of 16 men affiliated with the border cartel, including the Arellanos, are believed to have returned to Tijuana immediately after the airport shooting, characterized by Mexican authorities as a bungled attempt by the Arellanos to kill Guzmán.

The rest are thought to be still hiding in Guadalajara, as are the man believed to be their original target, Guzmán, and at least three of his band.

Many of the fugitives are known only by nicknames or street names, such as "El Happy," "El Cougar," "El Tarzan," "El Zig-Zag," "El Droopy" and "El Zar."

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*Police photos show (top, left to right) Hector Luís "El Güero" Palma Salazar and Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, co-leaders of the Sinaloa cartel. Bottom row shows Benjamín Arellano and his brother, Javier Arellano, who head the rival border cartel.*

# 5 cartels control drug flow in Mexico

*Profits high, but rivalry becoming increasingly deadly*

By GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

The Tijuana-based Arellano Félix brothers, being sought in connection with the May 24 machine-gun murder of a Mexican cardinal in Guadalajara, are but one of five major smuggling rings controlling the flow of Mexican and Colombian nar-

■ Drug cartels monitor rivals with sophisticated electronics — A-3

cotics into the United States.

Often, they are referred to as drug "families" — and indeed, like the Arellanos, the top members of the smuggling rings often are blood relatives.

"Some of these people have been at this business for so long that we're starting to see second-, third- and even fourth-generation smugglers," said a veteran Texas-based agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

"The grandfather may have been smuggling whiskey during the Depression. The father may have been smuggling illegal aliens. Now the grandsons are smuggling cocaine. And at the same time, we're seeing the demand for marijuana and heroin going up."

The U.S. government generally gives Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari high marks for his anti-narcotics efforts. Still, according to the U.S. State Department, Mexico accounts for just under a quarter of the heroin smuggled into the United States.

It also accounts for 40 percent of all the foreign-grown marijuana entering the United States, and 48 percent of the marijuana sold in the rest of the world.

Estimates of the amount of cocaine funneled into this country through Mexico range from 40 to 70 percent.

The Mexican drug mobs share — reluctantly — a drug trade whose profits run into the hundreds of millions of dollars annually. And according to U.S. and Mexican narcotics investigators, the border, in-

cluding the San Diego-Tijuana region, is the prime territory in that trade.

"The whole border is cut up into sectors and controlled by different people," said the Texas DEA agent. "In Tijuana, Mexicali and all the way down to the Gulf, they have smuggling families and most of them are related by blood or marriage."

In what some in Mexico have referred to as that nation's "narco-empire," these are the men identified by investigators on both side of the border as the kings:

■ **The Juarez cartel**, based in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. One of the oldest of the Mexican drug mafias and known to have close ties to

Colombian cartels, this group was the one that most greatly concerned the DEA — at least before this spring.

Its chiefs are Rafael and Eduardo Muñoz Talavera, Carlos Enrique Tápia Ponce, and Carlos Tápia Anchondo and his three sisters, Enriqueta, Alicia and Susana. Also included in the leadership was a former Mexican federal security chief named Rafael Aguilar Guajardo.

Its financial wealth is reputed to be immense. According to the cartel's own records, between 1988 and the fall of 1989, it moved 250 tons of 100 percent pure cocaine through the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Coahuila and Chihuahua into the United States, worth an estimated \$21 billion.

A 20-ton stash of cocaine found in a Los Angeles-area warehouse on Sept. 28, 1989, the largest such seizure in U.S. history, belonged to the Juarez cartel.

However, both the authorities and rival gangs have hit this group hard in recent years. Of the leadership mentioned above, only Enri-

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quinta is not in a Mexican prison.

Meanwhile, Rafael Aguilar Guajardo was gunned down earlier this year while vacationing in Cancún, along with an American schoolteacher who was standing nearby when the killers opened fire.

With the Juarez leadership in disarray, its place in Mexico's drug hierarchy may well have been taken by the gang whose leaders may have been the real targets of the Guadalupe airport shooting.

■ **The Sinaloa cartel** has a well-established reputation for extreme violence. The base of operations, Culiacán, has been terrorized for years by drug gangsters.

On a single night in January, traffickers left 11 people dead on Culiacán's streets, some of them innocent bystanders.

It was the Sinaloa cartel that sent 40 hit men to disco Christine in Puerto Vallarta on Nov. 8 — an attack that barely missed taking out the Arellano brothers. Its principals apparently did not appreciate having one of their cocaine shipments stolen by the upstarts from Tijuana. The Sinaloa group also is thought to be responsible for the hit on Aguilar Guajardo of the Juarez family.

The Sinaloa cartel is a two-headed monster consisting of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera, 42; and Héctor Luis "El Guero" Palma Salazar, 38.

Even before last week's bloody airport shooting, Guzmán was

wanted in Mexico for a long list of crimes, including drug trafficking, kidnapping, criminal association and murder. The federal attorney general's office links him to Colombian cocaine barons and heroin traffickers as far away as Thailand.

So far, authorities have seized 11 houses in several Mexican states, three executive airplanes and 27 bank accounts, all belonging to Guzmán.

Palma broke into the drug trade as a lieutenant in the Jalisco cartel, but a personal dispute with its leader led him to break away and align himself with Guzmán.

■ Number Three and moving up, the Arellano Félix brothers — Ramón, Javier and Benjamín — also are referred to in some quarters as "*El Cartel de la Frontera*," the border cartel.

Originally from Sinaloa state, perhaps Mexico's best-known drug-producing region, their sphere of influence since coming to Tijuana covers the entire Baja California peninsula and as far east as the city of Tijuana in the border state of Coahuila — five states in all.

They are reputed to represent the second generation of Mexican drug traffickers — smoother, better educated and more refined than their older counterparts — but only slightly less violent.

The Arellanos may have overstepped their bounds, however, when they had gunmen steal a load of 660 pounds of cocaine last May

from the Sinaloa cartel, the act that prompted Guzmán to strike back in spectacular, bloody fashion at the Puerto Vallarta disco.

That attempt, in turn, apparently led to the airport massacre at Guadalupe a week ago that killed Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, his driver and five other people.

■ **The Jalisco cartel** may be the best-known of the five to Americans, only because of the man who used to be its principal enforcer — Rafael Caro Quintero, the man whom the DEA accused of ordering the murder of DEA Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985, along with his Mexican pilot.

Since Caro's arrest, his drug-trafficking operation has been taken over by two of his uncles, Emilio Quintero Payán and Juan José Quintero.

However, American investigators say that Caro Quintero was never the all-powerful drug kingpin that the U.S. press made him out to be following the Camarena slaying.

That dubious honor, they said, more rightfully goes to a former supervisor in the State Judicial Police in Sinaloa state, and a cousin of the Arellanos in Tijuana — Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo.

It was Félix Gallardo who maintained a fragile peace among the major drug families in the country, as well as running his own operation, in the 1980s. When he was imprisoned in 1989 in connection with the Camarena murder, that

peace began to collapse.

For the last three years, he has been warring with "Guero" Palma and the Sinaloa cartel, a war that has grown increasingly personal in nature. Palma has sworn to kill every member of Félix Gallardo's family — and in the last two years, has gone a long way toward achieving his goal.

Félix Gallardo's cousins, the Arellanos, were drawn into that war when they ripped off the cocaine shipment of Palma's cohort, "Chapo" Guzmán.

The Quinteros specialize in the cultivation of marijuana, but like businessmen in more legitimate pursuits, apparently are looking to "diversify" into the cocaine trade.

■ Last but not least is a drug ring based in Matamoros, sometimes referred to as "**the Gulf cartel**" because of its position on the Gulf.

From Matamoros, their influence extends through the southern Mexican states of Oaxaca, Veracruz and Tamaulipas. Unlike the Quinteros, they already have diversified, pumping both marijuana and cocaine into the United States.

A week after Mexican federal judicial police agents netted 5 tons of coke in La Paz, they intercepted in Tecate a truck-trailer rig bearing some 7 tons, the largest single cocaine seizure in Mexican history.

The drugs were said to belong to "Guero" Palma of Sinaloa, but the cans had been packed and sealed in Veracruz.

NEWS CLIPPING

# Drug wars in Mexico: U.S. shares the challenge

By ERNESTO PORTILLO Jr.

**A**s last Monday's slaying of Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo reverberates through Mexico, America should play close attention.

The United States has a vested interest in Mexico's ability to halt increasingly menacing drug cartels, which not only are to blame for the fatal shooting of the cardinal but threaten to plunge Mexico into Colombia-style civil paralysis.

The inadvertent killing of the former Tijuana bishop, along with six other people in Guadalajara, is the latest in a string of drug-related murders in Mexico. By-standers, including a Colorado visitor last month in Cancun, have been shot on busy boulevards, and government and law enforcement officials have been gunned down by warring drug traffickers. And Tijuana has become a major battleground for competing drug families.

If Mexico fails to dismantle the sophisticated and extensive drug cartels that corrupted Colombia's judiciary and military, the flow of drugs into the United States will become even greater.

But Mexico cannot do it alone. The United States has to do its part. Massive U.S. law enforcement, however, is not working and must be replaced with a forceful emphasis on drug education.

Several years ago, while studying in Los Angeles with Mexican and American journalists, one of my Mexican colleagues insisted that Americans' insatiable appetite for illegal narcotics was the cause of drug-related violence and corruption in his country. Mexico, he reasoned, produced narcotics or was used as a transit route from South America because of our national addiction.

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U.S. shares the challenge

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That Mexican point of view is pervasive and has some merit; however, putting all the blame on the United States will not solve Mexico's problem. Unless Mexico fights back, it too will be choked by the drug cartels' long and powerful tentacles.

Mexico, under Salinas, has responded. In recent years the military and federal police have intercepted tons of cocaine and marijuana headed toward the United States. Dozens of Mexican soldiers and police officers have died in the poppy and marijuana growing fields. And despite deep historical suspicions of the United States, Mexico is cooperating with U.S. drug enforcement and customs agents, though largely behind the scenes.

But the allure of easy money has corrupted too many Mexican officials, preventing greater narcotics seizures. And in some cases, tainted officials have compromised binational drug investigations.

Mexico, however, is going to have to drop its aversion to closer U.S. cooperation if both countries intend to interdict drugs at their source or in transit.

At the same time, the United States must direct greater resources to anti-drug education and rehabilitation at home. Short of hermetically sealing off the United States from the rest of the world, the massive law enforcement effort by the United States and local governments has proven to be virtually ineffective. Domestic drug use and distribution are bankrupting our government coffers — costing billions for police, courts and jails — and damaging lives and property.

Still, drugs are consumed. But if we change our emphasis, drug consumption could be significantly reduced through a clear and consistent education and rehabilitation policy. Efforts at reducing cigarette smoking, a legal drug, and alcohol consumption have been successful; their use now is declining in the United States.

We may watch with horror or even indifference the unnecessary killings in Mexico's escalating drug war. But unless Mexico accepts more of our help and unless we rid ourselves of our hunger for illicit drugs, the killings will continue and drugs will flow.

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NEWS CLIPPING

## State Update

### 3 more arrested in killing of cardinal

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — Authorities arrested three more people in their search for the drug lords blamed for the killing of a Roman Catholic cardinal and six others in an airport shootout.

Two Mexican-Americans were arrested in Tijuana early Saturday in connection with the killings, the federal Attorney General's Office said in a weekend statement.

Juan Enrique Bazones Hernandez, 18, and Roman Torres Mendez, 23, were identified as gunman who participated in the May 24 shootout that killed Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo.

The two worked for the rivals of drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who police say was the intended target of the gunmen.

Hernan Medina Pantoja, Guzman's business administrator, was arrested here Friday night, the office said.

The arrests bring to four the number of people in custody in connection with the shooting in this city 280 miles northwest of Mexico City.

The fourth suspect, Jesus Alberto Vallardos, allegedly confessed that Guzman's rivals gave him \$10,000 to hire 15 men to kill Guzman.

The prelate was in his car waiting for a church official when he was blasted by gunfire 14 times at close range. His driver and five others also were killed.

Arrest warrants also have been issued for Guzman and four others, including three who head a rival drug cartel and allegedly contracted the gunmen.

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DATE: Sunday, 5/30/93

TITLE: Mexican drug lords  
in bloody war

FILE NO:

# Mexican drug lords

*3 brothers in Tijuana faction prefer bribes,  
but will resort to bullets to get their way*

By GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

The stage for last week's machine-gun slaying of Mexican Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo was set last fall in Puerto Vallarta.

Among the 300 revelers in the disco Christine last Nov. 8 were two young men from Tijuana, Javier and Ramón Arellano Félix.

Shortly after 2 a.m., a large truck pulled up with 40 men with automatic weapons. Fifteen of them burst inside the disco and traded fire with the Arellano bodyguards for a full eight minutes.

The Arellanos fled through an air-conditioning duct, leaving behind six dead.

The suspected author of that attack is Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera, the man also believed to have been the real

target of the gunmen who killed Cardinal Posadas.

There is a war going on over Mexico's most lucrative drug-trafficking routes into the United States. And right in the middle of it is a band of brothers in Tijuana — the Arellano Félix brothers.

"There are several power struggles going on up and down the border for control of areas," says a veteran Texas-based agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). "You've got one there (in

See Drug lords on Page A-28

# in bloody war



**WANTED: THE ARELLANO BROTHERS**

Arellano Félix  
AGE: 23  
HOME: Tijuana  
WANTED FOR:  
Homicide and  
drug trafficking



Arellano Félix  
AGE: 23  
HOME: Tijuana  
WANTED FOR:  
Drug  
trafficking

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Tijuana),"

Indeed, Puerto Vallarta, a Pacific Coast resort known better to Americans for its beaches and hotels, has become such a key access point for U.S.-bound narcotics that U.S. and Mexican sources alike indicate that the Arellano brothers and the Sinaloa and Juarez cartels are locked in a three-way death struggle for control of it.

Both U.S. and Mexican law enforcement describe the Arellano Félix brothers as representing the new breed of Mexican drug lord — more urbane, more sophisticated and more willing to try to buy off an enemy before killing him off.

Their Tijuana-based cartel was formed principally by four brothers — Francisco, Ramón, Javier and Benjamín. Francisco was killed in 1992, leaving the other three in charge.

Those three apparently have been busy.

U.S. federal court records and law enforcement sources in both the United and Mexico indicate that they have bribed and shot their way to prominence in the drug underworld that annually channels tons of illegal drugs into the United States. The result is the largest and most powerful of Tijuana's drug cartels, a business believed to generate as much as \$15 million per month.

Their influence is said by Mexican federal investigators to extend from Tijuana to the city of Torreon in the state of Coahuila, 900 miles to the southeast. They reportedly control an organization that lists at least 20 safe houses in Tijuana alone and numbers as many as 400 people.

The Arellanos have drug smuggling in their family tree. They are cousins of Miguel Angel Félix Gallardo, among the most famous and powerful of all Mexican drug traffickers. He still wields considerable influence despite having been imprisoned in Mexico since 1989.

Through him, they also are linked to Rafael Caro Quintero, a mid-level enforcer in Félix Gallardo's organization who gained international notoriety when he ordered the 1985 slaying of U.S. DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena and his Mexican pilot.

Police sources say Ramón Arellano Félix, nicknamed "El Mon," made a name for himself six years ago when he gunned down a man in the heart of downtown Tijuana in broad daylight and got away. The man had asked him to turn down his

"El Mon" was 17 at the time. Now 23, he is believed to call many if not most of the shots in his organization.

But if they are younger than some of their dope-dealing rivals, that does not make them inexperienced. The DEA has been aware of the Arellanos since the early 1980s, when one of them turned up on a wiretap in Chula Vista aimed at a local drug dealer.

They also are said to be adept in the art of laundering money, which they are doing through Tijuana banks. Roughly every two weeks, the money is driven across the border into Mexico in bundles of cash, stashed in the trunks of cars.

So far, despite Mexican customs instituting a random-inspection policy of vehicles crossing the border, none of these trunkloads of cash has been discovered.

The Arellanos are said to be envied by some of their drug-dealing competitors for the extent to which they have corrupted customs and other law enforcement officials on both sides of the border — particularly in Mexicali and Calexico, the principal port of entry for their illicit cargoes.

A former commander of the Mexican federal judicial police in Puerto Vallarta has been charged with providing protection to the Tijuana brothers.

And earlier this year, a U.S. Customs inspector at Calexico was sentenced to 26 years in federal prison for allowing loads of cocaine to cross the border into the United States.

Also, the man in overall charge of the Calexico, San Ysidro, Otay Mesa and two other border crossings, former San Diego district director for U.S. Customs, Allan J. Rappoport, is under investigation by a congressional subcommittee over a variety of allegations. These range from removing data about suspect drug runners from a central computer system to exposing Customs informants, some of whom were later injured or killed.

However, in extending their influence and increasing their power, the Arellanos have run afoul of what now seems to be the most powerful of all the Mexican drug cartels, the Sinaloa-based smuggling ring led by Héctor Luis "Guero" Palma Salazar and his co-chief, "Chapo" Guzmán.

Three times in the last nine months before Monday's bloody



events in Guadalajara, the Arellano Félix brothers have traded assassination attempts in various Mexican cities with "Chapo" Guzmán and "Guero" Palma. Those three gunbattles left 27 people dead, mostly gunmen from both groups.

Unlike the younger and smoother Arellano Félix brothers, the Sinaloa cartel, whose leaders are in their late 30s and early 40s, has a reputation for doing things the old-fashioned way: shoot them all and let the cops sort it out.

"Guzmán is vicious," the Texas-based DEA agent said.

With the fatal shooting of Cardinal Posadas, Mexican federal authorities are mounting an intense manhunt for all four drug lords. Much of that effort is centered in Tijuana, where both sides have safe houses, caches of weapons and police and army uniforms, described by authorities as counterfeit.

The third corner of this deadly triangle is the Juarez cartel based in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas.

"Recently, one of the Juarez cartel, Rafael Aguilar Guajardo, was killed down in Cancun," the DEA agent said. "There is speculation that Guzmán was involved in that."

The power struggle comes at a time when the Mexican government is stepping up its own efforts against the lucrative trade.

Police have managed to arrest or kill several key traffickers in Mexico. Some well-known names cur-

stem this flow effectively."

"These people are professional smugglers," the Texas DEA agent said. "They're big into narcotics right now, because that's where the money is, but they don't care, they really don't care. They'll cross anything (into the United States) you want crossed."

Worse, veteran DEA agents say these Mexican drug dons are insulated from prosecution not only by corrupted enforcement of the law, but by Mexican law itself.

"No big drug mafioso is going to be caught walking around with a sack of cocaine on his shoulder; they don't need to physically load their own trucks," said the Texas agent. "You've got to get him for conspiracy. But there are no conspiracy laws in Mexico."

"Maybe you can get a couple of drivers, and the truck can belong to a well-known trafficker, but you still can't go get him because (under Mexican law) there's no conspiracy."

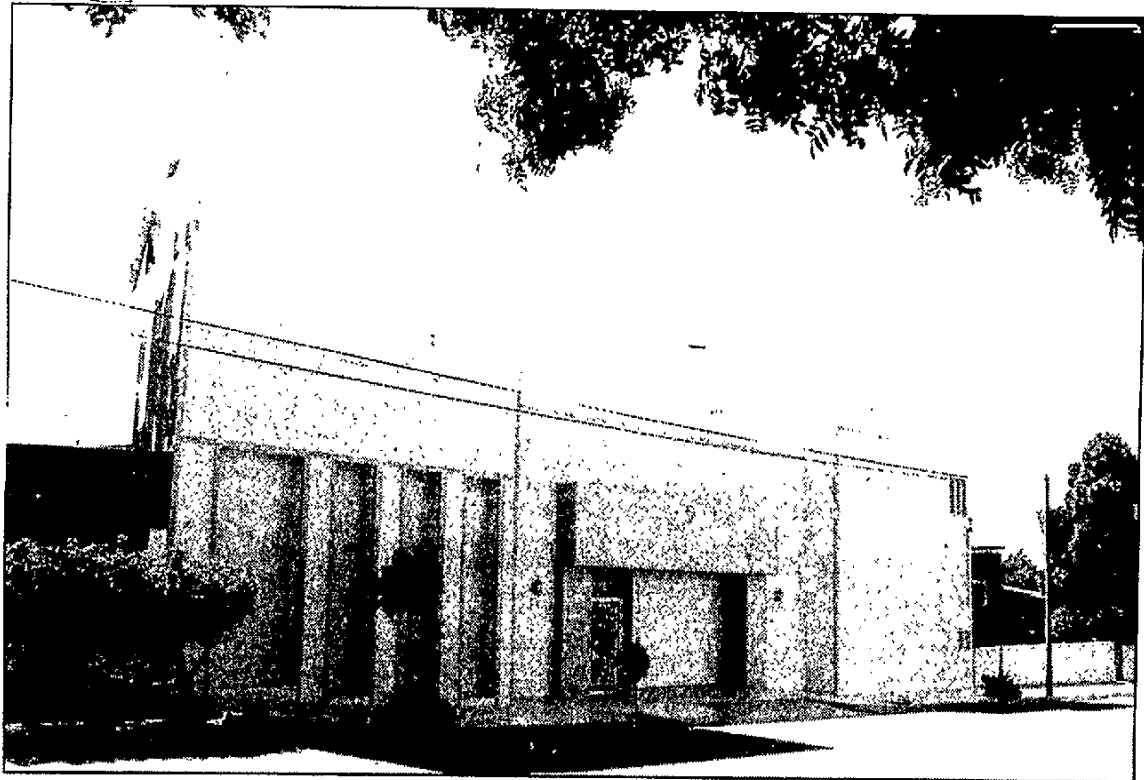
At the same time, Mexican law also foils the kind of undercover police operations that have become routine on this side of the border, he said.

"There's an agent provocateur provision in Mexican law. If I go down and set up an undercover buy (with a drug trafficker), we're both in trouble," the agent said.

rently behind bars there include Rafael and Eduardo Muñoz Talavera, Juan N. Guerra, Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo and Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo, as well as Roberto

Beltrán Félix of Mexicali and Carlos Tapia Anchondo of Ciudad Juarez and two of his three sisters, Alicia and Susana.

Still, according to the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters: "Traffickers continue to move drugs from and through Mexico into the U.S.; neither country has yet been able to



Union-Tribune / JOHN NELSON

**Safe house:** Mexican police searched two Tijuana homes, including this one, used as safe houses by the Arellano Félix brothers, suspected drug kingpins.

NEWS CLIPPING

NAME OF NEWSPAPER:

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

DATE: Saturday, 5/29/93

TITLE: Jetliner waited for  
gunmen after massacre,  
Mexico charges

FILE NO:

## Jetliner waited for gunmen after massacre, Mexico charges

By S. LYNNE WALKER  
Copley News Service  
and GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

MEXICO CITY — A Tijuana drug lord believed to be the architect of the Guadalajara airport massacre that killed a Roman Catholic cardinal apparently fled aboard a commercial jet that was held for him after the shooting, prosecutors said yesterday.

In Tijuana, meanwhile, teams of federal agents continued their raids on suspected drug lords' safe houses in their search for the killers.

Javier Arellano Félix and seven other men

rushed aboard Aeromexico Flight 110 after the 3:45 p.m. shooting Monday, the federal prosecutor's office said. The men, who appeared to be agitated, were carrying three canvas bags that they kept at their feet throughout the flight, authorities said.

A joint report by the federal office and the Jalisco state attorney general's office yesterday bolstered earlier theories that Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo had been mistakenly shot by members of a Tijuana drug cartel in a bungled attempt to kill a rival drug

See Cardinal on Page A-20

(7)

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# Cardinal

## Mexico says jetliner waited for gunmen

Continued from A-1

boss from Sinaloa.

But it opened new questions about the behavior of airport and police officials during Monday's shootout.

Authorities did not explain how the men managed to board the plane after the shooting, why the aircraft was allowed to take off when police had supposedly shut down the airport and whether any airport workers were suspects.

The flight to Tijuana was scheduled to take off at 4 p.m., but at 3:58 p.m. Aeromexico's chief of operations instructed the crew to delay the departure, saying there were problems outside the airport and that several passengers had not yet boarded, authorities said.

The departure was delayed for 20 minutes, until eight men — two without boarding passes — got on the plane. One of them was a passenger called "Carlos," whom crew members identified from pictures as Javier Arellano Félix, one of the drug chiefs sought in the killings.

During a search of the Tijuana houses of Arellano Félix and his brother, Ramón, authorities said, they found two Aeromexico ticket receipts for a flight from Guadalajara on Monday under the names of Héctor Moreno and Roberto Robles.

The Arellano brothers are alleged to control the most powerful drug cartel along the California-Mexico border. Their chief rivals are Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera and his ally, Héctor Luis Palma Salazar, of the Sinaloa cartel.

The Mexican government has offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to their arrests.

Government officials said Posadas was slain in a bungled hit by the Tijuana cartel against Guzmán.

Much of the information gathered by police comes from Jesús Alberto Vallardo Robles, an Arellano gunman who said he missed the flight back to Tijuana in the confusion that followed the shooting.

Vallardo said the 15-man hit squad had been in Guadalajara for more than a week, searching for its

victim.

It was Vallardo who led police to several safe houses that the Arellano Félix brothers maintained in Guadalajara, where the drug lords had stashed 12 AK-47 assault rifles, numerous AK-47 clips, five .38-caliber pistols, eight tear gas canisters and a substantial amount of ammunition. Also in the house was an electronically guarded compartment that held documents about Guzmán and his activities.

Authorities say the ongoing war pits the Sinaloa-based organization of Guzmán and Palma against that of Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo, jailed since 1989 in Mexico City for his part in the killing eight years ago of U.S. drug agent Enrique Camarena. Guzmán and Palma's organization had once been affiliated with that of Félix Gallardo.

Guzmán and Palma have been trading murders for the past three years with the Tijuana-based trafficking organization of the Arellano brothers, whom police have described as Félix Gallardo's nephews.

Last summer, police said, gunmen from the Guzmán organization kidnapped nine members of Félix Gallardo's group from a plush Mexico City neighborhood and dumped their bullet-riddled bodies on a country road in the state of Guerrero.

In November, Guzmán gunmen entered a crowded discotheque in the resort of Puerto Vallarta and opened fire on the Arellano brothers as they partied with friends. Six people died in that shooting.

Police said the massacre in Guadalajara was in retaliation for that shooting.

Posadas, one of two cardinals in Mexico, was buried Thursday in Guadalajara after a funeral Mass attended by 2,000 residents and by 70 cardinals from throughout the world.

To the north in Tijuana, officers of the Federal Judicial Police raided two more safe houses thought to belong to the Arellano brothers. Other federal agents were seen staking out the homes of known local drug dealers in hopes of picking up the trail of the prime suspects.

So far, police have raided eight safe houses and seized large quantities of automatic weapons, mainly AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition, and nine vehicles, many of them armored. At least 15 people

have been taken into custody. The cartel is believed to have as many as 20 such safe houses in Tijuana alone.

Twenty more Federal Judicial Police agents arrived in Tijuana yesterday to join the special team of 50 sent from Mexico City on Wednesday to press the search. The operation is under the personal direction of Rodolfo León Aragón, the national director of the Federal Judicial Police.

Even as federal agents continued their dragnet, the war on drugs claimed another casualty in Tijuana as a local patrolman was gunned down early yesterday in an encounter with smugglers.

Officer Miguel Ángel Cobian García was shot four times in the chest after stopping a Chevrolet van with California license plates about 12:40 a.m. at Guadalajara Avenue and Espiga Street. He apparently managed to shoot and wound one of the two occupants before dying.

Federico Benítez López, municipal director of public safety in Tijuana, said it was a routine traffic stop and Cobian, 34, had called for backup. By the time the units arrived, however, the officer already had been mortally wounded.

Comrades did arrive in time, however, to see the suspect vehicle fleeing the scene at high speed, and they chased it down. Two men, identified as Marion González Santacruz, 34, and Pedro Solís Vergel, 23, offered no resistance as they were taken into custody.

Inside the van, officers found 204 packets of marijuana weighing more than 1,100 pounds, along with two pistols, police said.

In Dallas, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari called for new international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking, saying prevention efforts should extend to stopping the profits generated by the illicit trade.

In a speech after accepting an honorary award from the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies, Salinas said he would propose that the United Nations review current strategies in the war against drugs.

Gross reported from Tijuana.

NEWS CLIPPING

NAME OF NEWSPAPER:

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

DATE: Saturday, 5/29/93

TITLE: Tijuana cop called  
death team target

FILE NO:

# Tijuana cop called death team target

By GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

**TIJUANA** — One of four Mexican drug kingpins suspected in the gangland-style slaying this week of a Mexican cardinal sent a hit team last month to kill the local commander of the Federal Judicial Police and his family, law enforcement sources on both sides of the border report.

The reason: retaliation for the seizure last month in Tecate, Mexico, of some seven tons of Colombian cocaine, one of the largest single seizures of cocaine in Mexican history.

Federal agents intercepted the would-be assassins before they could reach their target, the home of Cmdr. Eduardo Osorno Lara.

However, at least one man has been slain in the aftermath of the seizure.

Details of the plot to kill Osorno and his family are at times conflicting, but U.S. and

Mexican investigators, none of whom was willing to be identified, confirm that the Osornos had been targeted for death by one of the most powerful drug families in Mexico.

"Yes, it's true," said one Mexican official familiar with the case.

The person alleged to be the author of the attempted assassination is Héctor Luis Palma Salazar, identified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Mexican federal attorney general's office as one of the principals in the Sinaloa drug cartel, based in the city of Culiacan, a notorious drug haven on the Mexican Pacific coast.

Nicknamed "El Güero," the blond, Palma is believed by Mexican federal narcotics agents to be the Mexican connection to the infamous Medellín cartel in Colombia and the

See Plot on Page A-17

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# Plot

## Tijuana cop called death team target

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principal guardian of its cocaine pipeline through Mexico into the United States.

He and three other men are subjects of a \$5 million reward placed on their heads by the Mexican government because of Monday's bloody shooting at Guadalajara International Airport, in which seven people were killed, including Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, the archbishop of Guadalajara.

The other three suspects in that crime are Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera, alleged to be Palma's partner in the Sinaloa cartel; and two Tijuana brothers, Ramón and Javier Arellano Félix.

Colombian traffickers commonly contract with Mexican smugglers to route the drug into the United States, usually over land. Fifty percent to 70 percent of all the cocaine entering the United States enters via Mexico.

Law enforcement sources close to the Osorno case said Palma became enraged when he lost one of those carefully prepared and hidden shipments to Mexican federal narcotics agents.

The chain of events began on the afternoon of April 21, when agents from Osorno's office staged a surprise inspection of a semi-truck trailer rig bound for the United States, ostensibly with a cargo of more than 1,000 large cans of pickled jalapeño peppers.

Inside most of the 6-pound cans, however, were tightly wrapped packets of nearly 100 percent pure cocaine, so many that it took agents 31 hours to tally them all.

The cocaine from this one seizure, enough to be broken down into more than 14 million individual doses, equaled nearly 20 percent of all the cocaine seized throughout

Mexico in 1992. It was eventually taken to a Mexican army base in Tijuana and burned in front of reporters and cameras.

The Tecate seizure followed by one week the confiscation of five tons of cocaine from a warehouse in La Paz, in the state of Baja California Sur. So far, Mexican federal authorities have not said whether that massive stash of cocaine also belonged to "Güero" Palma.

The Tecate inspection was not made at random. Federal authorities later said the seizure had resulted from a two-month investigation spanning four Mexican states. The cans were thought to have been packed in Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico, one of the popular entry points for Colombian cocaine bound for the U.S. market.

Four days later, the hit team arrived in Tijuana with automatic weapons and grenades, and orders from Palma to kill Osorno and his family, the law enforcement sources said. Before team members could carry out those orders, however, an auto accident betrayed their presence in the city and the gunmen were tracked down and arrested by police, the sources said.

Initial reports described the hit team as having six members, including two women, but law enforcement sources in Mexico would confirm only two members overall. Reports that their arsenal included a Soviet-designed rocket-propelled grenade launcher could not be confirmed.

The sources said it did include hand grenades and the now-familiar AK-47 assault rifles, the weapon of choice of Mexican drug dealers and drug agents alike, with the distinctive curved 30-round magazines that have earned them the nickname *cuervos de chivo* — goat horns.

Meanwhile, Angel Gutiérrez, a well-known fight promoter and martial arts enthusiast who, law enforcement sources in Mexico said, owned the trailer used to haul the Tecate cocaine, was shot to death last week in Cancun. His killer has not been found.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date: MAY 28, 1993  
 Edition: SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE,  
 A-1 & A-24

Title: TIJUANA COMBED FOR  
 DRUG BARONS

Character: 92-SD-50674 SUB W  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: SAN DIEGO

Indexing:

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 b7C

1 - SAC  
 1 - ASAC  
 1 - ASAC  
 1 - FILE

# Tijuana combed for drug barons

By GREGORY GROSS  
 Staff Writer  
 and S. LYNNE WALKER  
 Copley News Service

**TIJUANA** — Teams of federal agents equipped for combat combed the hillside streets of this city's upscale neighborhoods yesterday in an all-out manhunt for the architects of Monday's airport massacre in Guadalajara that left a Catholic cardinal and six other people dead.

The cardinal, Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, was entombed yesterday at the church he led in Guadalajara as tens of thousands turned out to pay their final respects.

In Tijuana, the objects of the intensive manhunt stared back at residents from artists' drawings in the pages of their daily newspapers and on their television screens — four men, leaders of two rival Mexican drug cartels.

One of those two drug families is headed by two Tijuana brothers, Ramón and Javier Arellano Felix. The other is headed by two men based in Sinaloa state, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera and Héctor Luis Palma Salazar, also known as "El Guero."

See Manhunt on Page A-24

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FBI - SAN DIEGO

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: MAY 28, 1993  
 Edition: SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE,  
 (CONTINUED PAGE THREE)

Title:

Character: 92-SD-50674 SUB W  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: SAN DIEGO

Indexing:

Among those present was Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, who first met Posadas in the 1970s when he was a bishop in Tijuana. He said in an interview that Posadas "had for a long time been opposed to drug trafficking and violence."

Meanwhile, the governor of Jalisco state, of which Guadalajara is the capital, asked the federal government to send troops to patrol interstate highways and even floated the idea of imposing the death penalty in cases of drug-related violence. There is no death penalty in Mexico. The maximum sentence is 30 years.

In Tijuana, the sweep was conducted throughout the day yesterday under the personal direction of Rodolfo León Aragón, the national director of the Federal Judicial Police, who flew here Wednesday from Mexico City aboard a chartered plane with a special unit of 50 heavily armed agents.

Traveling in squads of up to a half-dozen men, convoys of Chevrolet Suburbans and Dodge Ramcharger 4-wheel-drive trucks prowled the well-to-do communities of Colonia Chapultepec and Colonia Cacho yesterday, swooping down on homes of people believed to have ties to the four fugitives.

Six safe houses were uncovered in the search, as was the home of Ramón Arellano Félix, in a posh section of Tijuana known as Cacho Sur. There, they found AK-47 assault rifles, pistols, fragmentation grenades and more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition, as well as armor-plated automobiles. Arellano's home featured armored-plated windows.

These and several other locations were being staked out by agents yesterday in hopes of picking up the trail of the Arellanos, Guzmán and Palma.

Police said there may be as many

as 20 safe houses in Tijuana alone.

Artists' renderings of the four men were in local newspapers and flashed on television broadcasts throughout the day. "If you have seen these men, or if you know where they are, call the federal attorney general's office in Mexico City," the announcer said.

The cardinal's slaying comes as Mexican officials are trying to persuade Mexico's northern neighbors to join them in signing a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari began a two-

day, four-city visit to the United States yesterday to meet with businessmen, politicians and intellectuals about the prospects for the trade pact.

"In this season of NAFTA, it's terribly important for the Mexican government to show that it's determined to do something about this drug violence," said John Bailey, a professor of government at Georgetown University.

"This was a gruesome incident and it plays into the NAFTA debate," he said. "People who are opposed to NAFTA will point to this

incident and ask how we can do business with a country with those kinds of problems."

To demonstrate its resolve to capture the drug barons, the Mexican government offered an unprecedented \$5 million reward for information leading to the arrests.

U.S. drug enforcement officers have long been cautioning that Mexico's problems with drug traffickers were worsening.

Walker reported from Mexico City. Associated Press reports also were used.



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date: MAY 28, 1993  
Edition: SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE,  
(CONTINUED PAGE FOUR)

Title:

Character: 92-SD-50674 SUB W  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: SAN DIEGO

Indexing:



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Rites for cardinal:** *Priests carry the coffin of Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo into the Guadalajara cathedral during his funeral yesterday. Posadas was shot to death at the Guadalajara airport Monday.*

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

# Manhunt

## Tijuana neighborhoods combed by agents

Continued from A-1

the blond.

The feud between these two cartels, part business and part personal, has been going on for at least a year and has left a trail of bodies from Cancun to Guadalajara to Puerto Vallarta to Tijuana — and possibly into San Diego as well.

Tijuana federal police commander Eduardo Osorio Lara said the special operation would continue in Tijuana until the four were caught.

Meanwhile, federal officials are now saying that the most prominent victim of Monday's bloody shooting, Cardinal Posadas, apparently was not caught in a cross-fire between rival drug gangs as originally reported, but was the victim of mistaken identity and riddled with automatic weapons fire at virtually point-blank range.

Posadas had gone to the Guadalajara airport Monday afternoon to pick up a Vatican representative, who was coming to help him plan an August visit to Mexico by Pope John Paul II.

At about the same time, a squad of 15 gunmen allegedly hired by the Arellano brothers was arriving at the airport to ambush Guzmán and Palma.

According to Leonardo Larios Guzmán, the attorney general for Jalisco state, the gunmen apparently mistook Posadas' white 1993 Mercury Gran Marquis for that of their intended targets and deliberately opened fire on the vehicle.

Coroner's officials in Guadalajara indicated that the cardinal had been shot 11 times from a distance of no



**Ramón  
Arellano Felix**

**Javier  
Arellano Felix**



**Héctor Luis  
Palma  
Salazar**



**Joaquín  
Guzmán Loera**

more than three feet. The attorney general said the cardinal was wearing black, a color often worn by drug traffickers.

Police there have in custody one man, Jesús Alberto Bayardo Robles, who they say has told them drug lords contracted with about 15 gunmen to kill a rival trafficker.

Another suspect was released yesterday after investigators determined he had nothing to do with the killings.

About 2,000 people crowded into Guadalajara's old stone cathedral yesterday for the solemn but simple funeral Mass for the cardinal, who was later entombed in the church. Tens of thousands outside pushed up against police barricades or listened to the service over loudspeakers outside.

Date: MAY 28, 1993

Edition: SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE,  
A-1 & A-24 (CONTINUED PAGE  
TWO)Title: TIJUANA COMBED FOR  
DRUG BARONSCharacter: 92-SD-50674 SUB W  
orClassification:  
Submitting Office: SAN DIEGO

Indexing:

NEWS CLIPPING

NAME OF NEWSPAPER:

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

DATE: Thurs. 5/27/93

TITLE: Reward to be set  
in cardinal's killing

FILE NO:

**Reward to be set  
in cardinal's killing**

MEXICO CITY — The Mexican government will offer a \$5 million reward for the capture of the leaders of two drug cartels responsible for the gunbattle that killed Cardinal Juan Posadas Ocampo in Guadalajara, a government source said yesterday.

The source said police investigating Monday's slaying of Posadas have concluded that the gunmen mistook Posadas for drug baron Joaquín Guzmán Loera, head of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel. Posadas was traveling in a car identical to the one Guzmán was expected to use and was the victim of a bungled "hit" ordered by leaders of the rival Tijuana cartel, the source said.

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Capitol Hill  
the American Embassy,

Casey III Madrid,

## Tijuana cartel blamed in cardinal's death

TIJUANA — The hit team that killed Cardinal Juan Posadas Ocampo in Guadalajara was hired by a Tijuana drug cartel and the gunmen mistook the cardinal's limousine for that of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera, leader of the rival Sinaloa drug cartel, a high Mexican law-enforcement official announced last night.

Antonio Garcia Torres, deputy attorney general of the republic, appearing on national television from Guadalajara, offered a \$5 million government reward for information leading to Guzman Loera, the intended target of the Guadalajara shooting; the brothers Ramon and Benjamin Arellano Felix, lead-

ers of the Tijuana cartel who ordered the hit; and Hector Luis Palma Salazar, another Sinaloa state drug kingpin.

Garcia Torres said a middleman who used the underworld name, in English, of "Popeye" hired 15 hit men in Tijuana and San Diego — Mexican nationals living in San Diego — for the attack on Guzman Loera, on behalf of the Arellano Felix brothers.

He said that all 15 were armed with AK-47 assault rifles and that each carried a grenade.

He said that the cardinal rolled into the airport in a limousine identical to one used by Guzman Loera and that the hit team opened fire.

The Monday shooting at the Guadalajara airport left the cardinal and three others dead and 11 people wounded.

Garcia Torres said "some arrests have been made" in the case. However, the indications were that they were mainly low-level "soldiers" in Mexico's burgeoning drug trade.

Garcia Torres attributed several recent multiple slayings to the Tijuana-Sinaloa drug rivalry, but did not mention killings in San Diego's South Bay that were also believed to be the result of the Mexican drug war.

From staff reports

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NEWS CLIPPING

NAME OF NEWSPAPER:

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

DATE: Wed. 5/26/93

TITLE: Tragedy underscores Mexican problem

FILE NO:

# Trapped in Guadalajara gunfight, Cardinal Posadas shot to death

By S. LYNNE WALKER  
Copley News Service

MEXICO CITY — One of Mexico's most prominent religious figures, Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, was shot to death along with six other people yesterday when his car was apparently driven into the middle of a gunbattle at Guadalajara's international airport.

Posadas, 66, the archbishop of Guadalajara, served as bishop of Tijuana for 13 years from 1970 to 1983. He was fatally wounded in what appeared to be a shootout involving drug traffickers, officials said. Twenty people were injured.

Posadas was shot as he was stepping into or getting out of his car at the airport, said Armando Morquecho, a spokesman for the governor's office in the state of Jalisco. He suffered 11 gunshot wounds, including one to the head. The cardinal had come to the airport to receive Monsignor Girolamo Prigione, papal nuncio who is here to prepare for Pope John Paul II's visit to Mexico in August, Morquecho said.

Also killed were the cardinal's driver, Pedro González, and four travelers, including Juan Vega Domínguez, 41, who was planning to take a flight to Los Angeles.

Television reports showed several cars in the airport parking lot riddled with bullets. In the most vivid scene from the airport, the body of Posadas was shown

slumped in the front seat of his white Gran Marquis.

In all, 20 cars were struck during the shootout, which occurred at 4 p.m. yesterday. The federal Attorney General's Office said that fragmentation grenades and heavy-caliber guns and cartridges were found in some of the cars. Many of the vehicles struck during the gunbattle had license plates from the states of Jalisco, Sonora and Michoacan, which are plagued by drug trafficking.

The assailants were armed with AK-47 assault rifles, said Morquecho.

The airport was closed by the army for an hour and police surrounded the area. Two suspects in the shooting were apprehended.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari was scheduled to leave Mexico City for Guadalajara late yesterday to meet with the governor of Jalisco.

Posadas, who was born in 1927, was made a cardinal two years ago by the pope. He was the bishop of Tijuana from 1970 until 1983, when he was transferred to Cuernavaca to be bishop of that city. He later became archbishop of Guadalajara, Mexico's second-largest city.

During his years in Tijuana, Posadas distinguished himself for being "a very quiet, respectful man" who shunned controversy, Héctor Javier González, a former seminari-

an, said in an earlier interview. González said Posadas created the diocese's lower seminary for preparatory students.

Posadas also had served as vice president of CELAM, the Latin American Episcopal Conference, which brings together 970 archbishops from throughout the region.

At a hurriedly called news conference last night, Tijuana Bishop Emilio Berlie Belauzaran called on authorities to spare no effort to find and punish those responsible for the massacre, and expressed his own "great sorrow" at the loss of Posadas.

"No to the culture of death! No to the violence!" he told reporters.

Posadas was one of only two cardinals in predominantly Catholic Mexico. The other is Ernesto Corripio Ahumada of Mexico City.

"The entire church regrets this savagery," said Ezequiel Pantoja Castillo, a Mexican spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, who added that he was concerned by the "growing drug-related violence" in Mexico.

Guadalajara has long been a center of operations for Mexican drug cartels. In 1985, U.S. drug agent Enrique Camarena was kidnapped and tortured to death by Guadalajara drug traffickers.

Staff Writer Gregory Gross contributed to this story

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NEWS CLIPPING

# Tragedy underscores Mexican problem

NAME OF NEWSPAPER:

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE  
DATE: Wed. 5/26/93  
TITLE: Tragedy underscores  
Mexican problem  
FILE NO:

## *Cardinal apparent victim of rising drug violence*

By S. LYNNE WALKER  
Copley News Service

MEXICO CITY — Violence among rival drug cartels has been on the rise in Mexico, yet nobody imagined that the war for control of the cocaine trade would claim the life of one of the country's most revered religious leaders.

But when Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo stepped out of his car at Guadalajara's international airport on Monday into a fusillade of bullets, he apparently became the latest casualty in a struggle between drug gangs to corner Mexico's cocaine market.

Mexican and U.S. officials now believe the gunbattle that killed the archbishop of Guadalajara and six other people was sparked by a feud between rival drug families.

"Right now there's a lot of competition to control the cocaine traffic in Mexico," said a U.S. Embassy official, who spoke on the condition that his name not be used. "You have very powerful organizations that would like to control the trade."

The shootout, which had as many as 20 armed men squaring off in the airport parking lot, follows a series of increasingly public and violent attacks by Mexican drug traffickers as turf wars among regional smuggling groups

have escalated.

Just last Wednesday, a fierce gunbattle by rival gangs in Nuevo Laredo left at least one person dead and three wounded. In April, a tourist from Colorado was killed in Cancun when she walked into an ambush of drug lord Rafael Aguilar Guajardo by rival traffickers. A former Sinaloa state attorney general was shot to death last month in Mexico City in what is believed to be a drug-related killing.



**Juan Jesús  
Posadas  
Ocampo**

One shooting victim was found with 100,000 pesos — worth about \$35,000 — and a packet containing a white substance that appeared to be cocaine.

"What's happening now is a shakeout as Mexico becomes a key area for Colombians to ship through the country," said Peter Lupsha, a professor of political science at the University of Mexico who conducts research on international organized crime. "What you're seeing now is the firefight

among factions."

Guadalajara, the country's second-largest city 300 miles northwest of Mexico City, is a base of operations for some of Mexico's most powerful drug barons. It was in Guadalajara that



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U.S. undercover drug agent Enrique Camarena was tortured and murdered in 1985.

The Camarena case and increased pressure by the United States prompted the Mexican government to begin cracking down on major drug dealers. The crackdown has led to more clashes between police and drug dealers and between rival gangs, causing many Mexicans to decry the increase in violence.

"The difference is that now you see hand grenades," Lupsha said. "Those were unheard of five years ago. And AK-47s are now commonplace.

"The collateral damage that you're likely to do in the area of the firefight is a lot greater than you'd see if these guys had six-shooters."

Speculation was rampant yesterday that the cardinal himself may have been a target in the shooting. During a press conference yesterday in Guadalajara, a forensic expert said Posadas was killed by 14 bullets fired directly at him.

Rumors about the cardinal's death were fueled by the fact that just last week Posadas denounced from the pulpit the growing violence in Mexico and its links with the drug trade.

But Lupsha echoed the view of U.S. officials when he said, "There was no intent to hit the poor cardinal. He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Posadas, 66, was the third cardinal worldwide to be killed this century.



5/25/93

LOS ANGELES TIMES

## MEXICO: Cardinal, Six Others Killed

Continued from A1

The gun battle occurred at about 3:45 p.m. and appears to have been between rival narcotics traffickers, officials and reporters on the scene in Guadalajara said. Helicopters buzzed overhead as police confiscated about 20 bullet-riddled automobiles, including one that contained grenades and high-powered automatic weapons.

"The main information we have is that this was an armed confrontation," Gov. Rivera Aceves said. "We are investigating in conjunction with the federal attorney general."

He said two people were detained in connection with the killings.

Witnesses told the Guadalajara newspaper Siglo 21 that one of the gunmen saw Posadas opening the door of his car during the battle, apparently believed the cardinal was another gunman and turned his weapon on the Grand Marquis—a car often favored by drug traffickers.

Posadas and five other people died at the scene. A seventh victim died later.

The papal nuncio, Msgr. Girolamo Prigione, was not caught in the shootout.

Cardinal Posadas, 66, was one of Mexico's two cardinals. He was elevated to cardinal by Pope John Paul II in June, 1991, and previously served as the bishop of Tijuana and Cuernavaca.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, a close friend of Posadas, said late Monday that "it's just so tragic he died as a result of the two elements he had rallied against for so many years—guns and narcotics." Mahony and Posadas were appointed cardinals at the same time in 1991.

Guadalajara has long been home to several of Mexico's competing cocaine and marijuana trafficking organizations, and Mafia-style killings are commonplace.

Salinas has committed his government to fighting narcotics trafficking and has delivered several blows to Mexican cartels. The most important was the 1989 arrest in Guadalajara of Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, then Mexico's biggest drug trafficker and the principal supplier of Colombian cocaine to the West Coast of the United States.

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# Mexico Cardinal Slain; Caught in Gun Battle

■ **Violence:** 6 others are killed at Guadalajara airport.  
Rival narcotics traffickers are believed responsible.

By MARJORIE MILLER  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MEXICO CITY — A Roman Catholic cardinal and six other people were killed Monday afternoon when they were caught in the middle of an apparently drug-related shootout in the parking lot of Guadalajara's international airport.

Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo, the Archbishop of Guadalajara, was hit 11 times by AK-47 automatic gunfire as he arrived to meet the flight of the papal nuncio in Mexico, state officials and reporters said.

The cardinal's white Grand Marquis was riddled with more than 30 bullets, and his driver, Pedro Gonzalez, was among the dead.

Jalisco Gov. Carlos Rivera Aceves did not rule out that Posadas could have been a target in the

attack but seemed to reject the possibility when he said, "Who would want to kill the cardinal?"

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari flew to Guadalajara late Monday to express his condolences for the cardinal. Last year, Mexico re-established diplomatic relations with the Vatican for the first time in more than 100 years.

Salinas' trip also was meant to demonstrate government control in a country increasingly battered by Colombia-style drug violence. Two top narcotics traffickers and a former Sinaloa state attorney general have been gunned down in public in the last two months.

The airport in Guadalajara, Mexico's second-largest city, was shut down immediately after Monday's shootout and occupied by soldiers. It remained closed to flights for several hours.

Please see MEXICO, A8

LA TIMES 5/25/93

DATE OF ARTICLE 6/18/93  
SOURCE SAN DIEGO UNION  
SECTION/PAGE A2  
SUBJECT COLOMBIA-TYPE DRUG  
VIOLENCE CALLED UNLIKELY

FILE NO: 92C-SD-50684 SUB W

A-2 [NI]

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Friday, June 18, 1993

## Inside Mexico

# Colombia-type drug violence called unlikely

By S. LYNNE WALKER  
Copley News Service



**MEXICO CITY** — Since the tragic death of Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, much has been said about the "Colombianization" of Mexico's drug trade.

But law-enforcement officials say Mexico, with its own style of drug dealings, is likely to escape the intense violence that has gripped Colombia for the past two decades.

While cocaine king Pablo Escobar has declared war on Colombia's government, Mexican drug traffickers have found it easier to enlist the help of some police officials by sharing the wealth amassed by shipping narcotics to the United States.

"There are traitors within the Attorney General's Office," Mexico's top law-enforcement officer told a congressional committee this month. "Drug traffic has infiltrated the Judicial Police," Attorney General Jorge Carpizo testified during the four-hour session with legislators.

**I**n the 3½ weeks since Posadas was gunned down in Guadalajara during what authorities describe as a bungled attempt by the Arellano Félix brothers of Tijuana to assassinate rival drug trafficker Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, Carpizo has painted a picture of a federal police agency rife with corruption.

The Attorney General's Office fired 67 narcotics agents this week for maintaining "inappropriate relationships with underworld figures" and for engaging in illicit activities.

The dismissals followed the arrest this month

of Jalisco Judicial Police Chief Antonio Bejos Camacho and four other high-ranking officers on charges of accepting protection money from drug traffickers.

The problem of corruption in the federal police force is so widespread that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari Wednesday created an elite anti-narcotics unit called the National Institute for Fighting Drug Trafficking to battle Mexico's drug barons.

Salinas' stepped-up efforts to quash the drug trade contrast sharply with the "very Mexican attitude of ignoring, avoiding or denying the magnitude of the grasp of the drug phenomenon," wrote Sergio Aguayo, a national security expert, in the Mexico City daily *La Jornada*.

That attitude has allowed the drug trade to flourish in Mexico, but it has also kept violence against the civilian population under control.

**B**ecause they have not confronted significant resistance from law enforcement, narcotics traffickers have been left to fight among themselves for a larger share of the drug market.

The gunbattle at Guadalajara's international airport that claimed the life of the cardinal and six other people was just another violent clash between the Tijuana and Sinaloa drug cartels over turf in several northern Mexico states; Mexican and U.S. drug enforcement officials said.

Law-enforcement officials maintain the cardinal, whose body was riddled with 14 bullets, was not the intended target of the shooting.

U.S. drug agents and researchers familiar with the evolution of the cocaine trafficking said

alliances between Mexican police and narcotics peddlers have prevented the number of killings from rising to the level common in Colombia.

"Traffickers in Colombia have declared war against the state," said Peter Lupsha, a professor of political science at the University of Mexico who conducts research on international organized crime. "The violence in Mexico has never been against the state."

Since Colombia's war on drugs began almost 20 years ago, nearly 2,000 government officials and journalists have been killed by drug traffickers, said Alberto Cásas Santamaría, Colombia's ambassador to Mexico.

Attacks on government representatives and Colombia's civilian population have become even more fierce in the past year as fugitive cocaine king Escobar attempted to intimidate the police into abandoning efforts to put him behind bars.

**T**he attacks, which included the April bombing of a Bogota shopping center, have killed at least 80 people and injured more than 500 since July.

"Mexico has not reached, nor will it ever reach, that level of violence," said a U.S. drug agent. "A cardinal was killed in Guadalajara, but look who the drug traffickers have killed in Colombia. They've killed judges, they've killed presidential candidates, they've killed attorneys general."

"The trafficking organizations are the silent government of Colombia," the official said. "I don't think it will ever reach that point in Mexico."

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# Tunnel figure a money-laundering suspect

GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

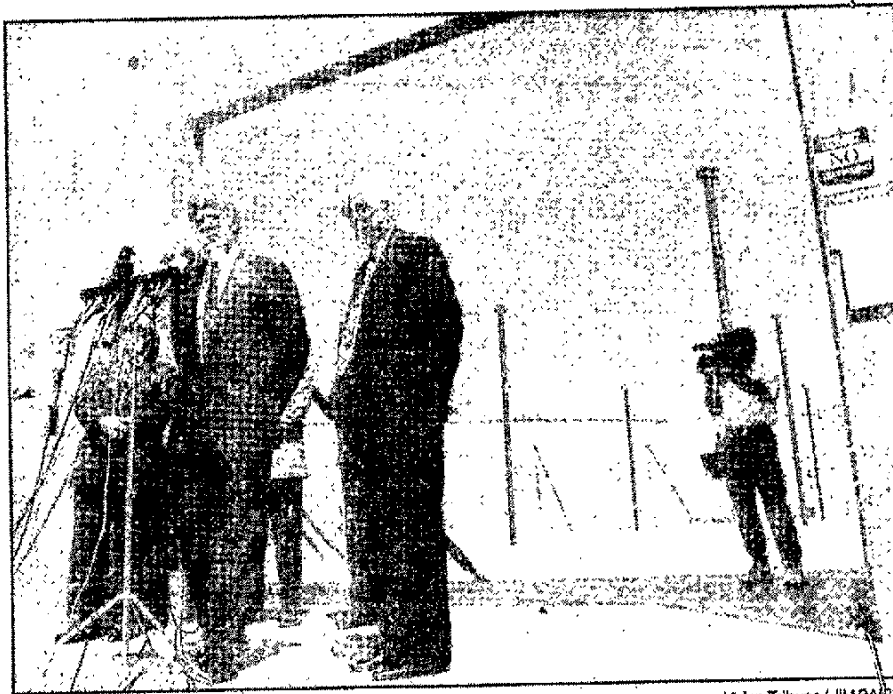
The man who bought the Otay Mesa property meant to serve as the terminus for a tunnel under the border from Tijuana is a suspected money-launderer for the Sinaloa drug cartel run by Joaquín "Chapo" Guzmán, U.S. federal officials said yesterday.

As for the tunnel itself, the builders apparently used San Diego County plot maps to guide their construction project, but still came up about 120 feet short of their goal, the officials said.

Yesterday, U.S. marshals formally seized the property — valued at more than \$2 million — at 9012 Siempre Viva Road. It eventually will be sold and the profits most likely used for federal anti-narcotics efforts.

The tunnel was discovered by Mexican Federal Judicial Police on May 31, a week after the machine-gun massacre at Miguel Hidalgo International Airport in Guadalajara, in which Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo and six other people were killed.

Guzmán, the apparent target of the airport attack, was arrested in Guatemala two



Union-Tribune / JIM BAIRD

**Tunnel vision:** Jeff Casey of U.S. Customs (at microphone) and the DEA's Julius Beretta answer questions at the formal seizure of a building intended to be the U.S. end of a shaft under the border.

See Tunnel on Page B-9

*[Handwritten signature]*

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# Tunnel

Authorities seek best way to destroy it

Continued from Page B-1

weeks ago and placed by Mexican authorities in the maximum-security Almoloya prison in Mexico City. If convicted of the various charges against him, including murder, attempted murder and drug trafficking, he could be sentenced to up to 200 years behind bars.

At the heart of the case is a man identified by authorities as Alberto Parra Zamora, the purchaser of the land and the man who arranged for construction of the warehouse.

According to law-enforcement officials and federal court documents, the property, located in Unit VI of the De La Fuente Business Park, was bought by Parra for \$1.1 million. He then began construction on the warehouse, paying \$1.5 million to Arlen Development Inc. of Victorville.

Both purchases were paid in full, according to Julius C. Beretta, special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in National City.

The rear third of the warehouse was planned as a cannery, the Tia Anita Cannery & Warehouse, federal officials said. There also was space for a loading dock behind the building.

On the surface, there was little to indicate that this was anything

more than another routine business deal on Otay Mesa, Beretta said.

"Had this case not come down the way it did, with the assassination of the cardinal, this whole thing would have been very difficult to detect," he said.

Parra, believed to be a Mexican national, is identified as a money-launderer and facilitator for the Guzmán drug ring. Beretta would not say whether Parra was a high-ranking member of that ring, but said: "If you're one of these guys like 'Chapo' Guzmán, you're not going to have anybody buying property for you or running operations like this unless it's someone you trust."

The tunnel builders sank a vertical shaft 65 feet into the earth inside a warehouse a few steps from the border fence, then started digging north, Beretta said.

But instead of coming up near or beneath the building, they came up across the street in a vacant lot which also is part of the De La Fuente Business Park; they were about 120 feet short. There is no indication that the owners of that lot, Robert Egger and Mary E. Odermatt, had any involvement with the tunnelers.

Customs agent Jeff Casey said the discovery of the tunnel and the arrest of Guzmán are "evidences once again that this border is under siege by drug traffickers."

"We are actively looking into the existence of other tunnels," Casey said. "There are a number of technologies for detecting anomalies in the ground, and we are making use of some of those technologies."

Meanwhile, nearly two full weeks after the tunnel's discovery, U.S. authorities are still trying to figure out the best way to destroy it.

"We don't want to leave it there for somebody else," Beretta said.

Among the ideas being considered is drilling holes down into the tunnel 20 feet apart and using them to fill the structure with tons of concrete.

Geologists, mining experts and technical specialists from the U.S. Defense Department are to examine the tunnel in another two weeks to determine the best way to render it impassable.

Yesterday, the Tijuana news-weekly *ZETA* quoted unnamed officials of the federal Attorney General's Office in Mexico City as saying that Guzmán, the eventual user of the tunnel and the warehouse, was detained briefly in 1992 by the Federal Judicial Police, but was freed on the orders of the Tijuana commander of the PJF at the time, Fulvio Jiménez Turegeno.

Jiménez was arrested in Mexico City this month for allegedly selling protection to drug traffickers.

*ZETA* also reported that an arrest order had been issued for the Arellano brothers last November but that the order was leaked to the brothers in time for them to obtain a restraining order known as an *amparo*, which protected them from being picked up.

A spokeswoman for the federal Attorney General's Office in Mexico City would neither confirm nor deny the *ZETA* report.

San Diego Union  
6/15/93

# Local youths enlist in Mexican drug wars

BILLY THORNTON  
Staff Writer

Mexican drug families are recruiting young members of local street gangs into sophisticated drug trafficking and its violence, some gang experts say.

The recruiting happens in prison, where a network of older and hardened gangsters woo the up-and-coming members into organized Mexican operations with promises of wealth and power.

When the young felons leave prison, they become pawns for warring Mexican drug kingpins who turn them into assassins.

That's the theory of former gang members and counselors who are trying to determine why many local gang members are involved in the bloody Mexican drug war that law enforcement officials say has spilled into San Diego.

Gang experts and authorities fear the recent arrest of two Logan Heights gang members inspected in the fatal shooting of a Roman Catholic cardinal could mean more violence here as the battles over drug mar-

kets escalate.

Officials say the two documented gang members, Juan Bosques Hernandez, 18, and Ramon Torres Mendez, 23, who are jailed in Mexico City, were recruited as assassins by the Arellano Felix brothers to kill the head of a rival Mexican drug family. Two other San Diego Courtmen have been turned over to Mexican authorities in connection with the bloody attack.

Instead of shooting Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera — the intended target, who was arrested Wednesday in Guatemala — gunmen mistakenly shot Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo at the Guadalupe airport May 24.

Local law enforcement officials believe at least a dozen slayings in San Diego, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach and National City may be linked to Mexican drug families.

"There's obviously a big connection between gangs in prisons, gangs on the outside, organized crime in Mexico and the drug trade," said Raul Garcia, a gang counselor in the South Bay. "It's a networking thing. It's

sort of like a ladder, and the gang members are climbing."

The experts blame the state-prison system for allowing gangs to flourish behind bars, giving young felons better connections to organized criminal enterprises.

"It is a massive problem," said another counselor and former gang member, who like others in his situation, declined to be quoted by name. "They come out worse than when they went in. A lot of recruitment happens in prison."

He said there are more than 30 organized gangs in the California penal system, including a huge gang called the Mexican Mafia.

The connection between local gangs and narcotics dealing is certainly not new. What is different, the experts say, is that the operation is becoming more organized and widespread.

"I think the Mexican Mafia's had a foothold all along," said Robert Robinson, a former gang member who was once involved in drug trafficking. "It's just that the ( turf ) war has escalated and the execution-style killings just

draw attention to it."

Robinson is now gang project manager for San Diego Youth and Community Services in Golden Hill.

"These things (Mexican drug trafficking) have been going on here for many years," said another former gang member who now counsels current members. "I think we're going to see more of it. I think you'll see more organizational structure. What you've got is the same kind of scenarios in the Italian Mafia."

One counselor and former gang member, who is part of a task force to curb gang violence in the North County, said the street gangs are generally still involved in traditional gang activities — such as drive-by shootings and fights over small turf rivalries — rather than in large narcotics organizations.

"It's just starting to progress to this side," he said. "It's certainly more extensive than these two people (Bosques and Torres), but when it comes to street gangs, they're not involved — yet."

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IN KILLING OF CARDINAL

FILE NO: 92C-SD-50684 SUBW

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE • WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1993

# Confession reported in killing of cardinal

By GREGORY GROSS, Staff Writer

TIJUANA — One of four San Diego County men arrested in the slaying of Mexican Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo reportedly has confessed to his part in the crime.

Another, meanwhile, has been released.

U.S. sources close to the case said yesterday that Juan Carlos Mendoza Castillo, who was turned over to Mexican federal authorities by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, has been flown to Mexico City, where all those thus far arrested in the case are being held.

The other man, José Jesús Gutiérrez Quiroz, 22, has since been freed, the sources indicated. Gutiérrez, allegedly an undocumented migrant, had been turned over to

Mexican investigators on a deportation warrant.

Cardinal Posadas, his driver and five other persons were gunned down in a bloody machine-gun attack May 24 at Guadalajara International Airport. Mexican officials have described the shooting as a bungled attempt by leaders of a Tijuana-based drug cartel to kill the leader of a rival faction.

In the weeks that followed, Mexican Federal Judicial Police have tracked down numerous safe houses in Guadalajara and Tijuana belonging to both groups, uncovering caches of weapons, money and sophisticated electronic monitoring devices. They also have arrested or held for questioning scores of fellow federal officers up to the rank of commander, for allegedly maintaining ties or offering

protection to the druglords.

According to local authorities, Mendoza had links to a Latino street gang in Logan Heights whose members allegedly were recruited for the Guadalajara hit by the leaders of the Tijuana cartel, the brothers Benjamin, Javier, and Ramón Arellano Félix.

The three brothers apparently fled Guadalajara aboard a commercial airline flight to Tijuana moments after the killings. Authorities believe they are hiding somewhere in the area, possibly in La Jolla or other areas of San Diego. Meanwhile, their alleged target, Joaquín "El Chapo"

See Cardinal on Page B-4

## Cardinal

One man confesses,  
one man released

Continued from Page B-1

Guzmán Loera, was caught last week in neighboring Guatemala and is being held along with five associates in a maximum-security prison in Mexico City.

According to sources close to the investigation, Mendoza is believed to have associations with the Calle 30 or 30th Street gang, as well as

the Arellano brothers.

The Arellanos are believed to have hired members of the Calle 30 as triggermen for the airport massacre. Two alleged members of that gang, Juan Basones Hernandez, 18, and Ramón Torres Mendez, 23, were arrested in Tijuana in the days immediately following Posadas' death and also are being held in Mexico City.

Mexican federal investigators on the trail of the cardinal's killers have given federal authorities in the United States names and photographs of 10 suspects wanted for questioning, including both documented and undocumented migrants thought to be living in the Logan Heights area.

According to Jack Hook of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, agents of the federal anti-drug task force Operation Alliance had gone last Wednesday to search a house for a suspected drug trafficker when they stumbled upon Mendoza.

"It was just luck," Hook said. "He admitted that he was a Mexican national and an illegal alien, which was how we were able to deport him."

Federal agents notified the Federal Judicial Police in Tijuana of their plans to deport Mendoza, and when they sent him through the pedestrian gate at San Ysidro at 2 a.m. last Thursday, federal officers were waiting.

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THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE • SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1993

# Mexico-massacre hunt turns to La Jolla

By GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

TIJUANA — At least three of the remaining four Mexican drug lords wanted in connection with the killing last month of a Mexican Catholic cardinal may be holed up somewhere in La Jolla.

"Yes, that is official," said a spokeswoman for the Mexican federal attorney general's office in Mexico City, American law enforcement also is pursuing the possibility that one or more of the Arellano Félix brothers — Benjamin, Javier and Ramón — are hiding somewhere in San Diego, specifically La Jolla.

"We have intelligence that the wife of Benjamin Arellano has a brother living in La Jolla who recently moved out of the house," Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Jack Hook said yesterday.

Furthermore, the wife and her son were seen shopping at Nordstrom in Fashion Valley soon after the May 24 shooting at Guadalajara International Airport.

"Those two things make us believe (Benjamin Arellano Félix) could be in the United States," Hook said.

In the shooting, seven people were killed, including the archbishop of Guadalajara, Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo.

Mexican police described the massacre as a bungled gangland-style attempt by the Arellanos to kill one of their rivals, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera.

Guzmán was captured Wednesday in Guatemala and turned over to Mexican authorities. He is in a maximum-security detention center near Mexico City.

A photograph of Benjamin Arellano Félix and his family, along with other information, was to be aired last night on the U.S. national television show "America's Most Wanted."

Also among those still being sought is Héctor Luis Palma, also known as "El

Cidero" ("The Blond"). Palma is believed to be Guzmán's partner in a powerful drug cartel based in Sinaloa state.

For the last four years, the Sinaloa cartel has been at war with its rivals in Tijuana, the Arellano brothers. That war intensified last year, leading to a series of bloody shootouts, assassinations and kidnappings in Mexico and in San Diego County.

Investigators in Tijuana now say they have established that a cache of 21 assault rifles and machine guns found two weeks

See Massacre on Page B-6

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# Massacre

Mexican manhunt  
turns to La Jolla

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ago in a suspected safe house belonging to Guzmán did not come from Mexican army stocks.

The Belgian-designed FAL automatic rifles are of the same type and caliber used by the Mexican army but were manufactured in Egypt. Mexico produces its own military small arms under license from European designers.

The weapons eventually will be

taken to Mexico City to be destroyed or to be stored as part of the army's official inventory.

As the search for the Arellano brothers and Palma continued, local officials and professionals, responding in part to the tone set last week by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, began to publicly denounce the drug cartels. Many would not have dared to do so earlier.

The inspector general of the state human rights prosecutor's office, Antonio García Sánchez, called yesterday for a permanent pursuit of the traffickers. In Mexicali, the president of the Federation of Lawyer Associations and Academies, Arnaldo Castilla García, called for a "war without quarter" against the drug lords.

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SUBJECT DRUG LORDS BLOOD

FEUD DETAILED

FILE NO: 92C-SD-50684 SUBW



Union-Tribune / JOHN GIBBINS

**Private zoo:** Workers under the direction of federal police prepare miniature donkeys, native to Peru, for shipment to the Mexicali municipal zoo.

## Drug lords' blood feud detailed

By GREGORY GROSS  
Staff Writer

**TIJUANA** — A San Diego County man with links to a Logan Heights gang has provided the most revealing look to date at how a Tijuana drug lord personally directed a machine-gun attack on a rival trafficker in Guadalajara.

Meanwhile, the federal Attorney General's Office announced yesterday that this week it has fired 67 agents, commanders and deputy commanders of the Federal Judicial Police throughout the country. That is the law-enforcement agency with the primary responsibility for fighting drug trafficking in Mexico.

Among those fired were the Tijuana commander of the Federal Judicial Police, Eduardo Osorno Lara, and one of his agents, as well as a PJF agent in Mexicali.

The federal Attorney General's Office also released a detailed summary yesterday of the confession of Juan Carlos Mendoza Castillo, a 21-year-old undocumented migrant arrested last week by U.S. narcotics agents in Chula Vista and turned over to Mexican federal officers.

See Drug lords on Page A-27

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## Drug lords

67 suspect police  
are fired in Mexico

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Mendoza told of Rancho las Bardas, a compound operated by alleged Tijuana drug lord Ramón Arellano Félix and his brothers, Benjamín and Javier. There, 10 miles east of downtown Tijuana and less than a mile from the Tijuana-Tecate highway, the brothers are said to have entertained guests at lavish parties inside thatched cabanas surrounded by a high brick wall.

PJF agents found inside the compound a stock of more than 100 expensive and exotic animals — everything from goats, cattle and thoroughbred horses to miniature ponies and burros, llamas, peacocks, deer, ostriches and an emu.

The agents, aided by a group of wranglers, rounded up the animals yesterday, loaded them onto trucks and drove them to the Mexicali municipal zoo.

Mendoza reportedly told interrogators in Mexico City that he was one of seven gunmen who accompanied Ramón Arellano from Tijuana to the Guadalajara international airport with the mission of killing the leader of a rival drug cartel, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera.

Instead, the gunmen shot and killed Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, his driver and five other people.

Mendoza allegedly was a member of the Arellano Félix organization for about two months before the slaying of Posadas, serving as part of a 13-member squad of bodyguards armed with .38-caliber pistols and AK-47 assault rifles. They accompanied Ramón Arellano wherever he went in Tijuana, including Rancho las Bardas.

They knew each other mainly by their street names, such as "El Maick," "El Gory," "El Tigre," "El Tarzan," "El Puma," "El Guero" and "El Spunky." The group allegedly was commanded by Alfredo Araujo, also known as "El Popeye," and another man known only as "El Charly."

In addition to his duties as an armed protector for Ramón Arellano, Mendoza also told authorities of buying military uniforms for the group, which he turned over to "Charly."

According to Mendoza, Araujo told him of the Guadalajara trip on May 17 and invited him to go, without offering details. Not until he was in Rodríguez International Airport in Tijuana with four other bodyguards the next day was he told the reason for the trip — to kill "Chapo" Guzmán.

Over the next two days, 11 of Ramón Arellano's 13 bodyguards flew into Guadalajara, drew weapons from an Arellano "safe house" and began stalking Guzmán.

About 3:25 p.m. on May 24, the hit men struck. According to Mendoza, he was inside the airport terminal when "El Charly" and "El Guero" ran out into the airport parking lot with AK-47s. He said he heard automatic-weapons fire outside immediately thereafter.

Mendoza's statement did not indicate what role he played during the shootings.

Twenty minutes after the shooting, a highly agitated Ramón Arellano boarded Aeromexico Flight 110 for Tijuana, along with Mendoza and six of his bodyguards. One of them, "El Guero," reported to Arellano that he had shot and killed Guzmán.

On their return to Tijuana, they were met at the airport by other unidentified associates of the Arellano cartel, who ushered them through a side entrance, away from an airport metal detector. Only upon their arrival in Tijuana did the group discover that they had killed, not their rival Guzmán, but Cardinal Posadas.

The detailed confession was made public yesterday, on the heels of word of the Federal Judicial Police firings, which affected 67 agents, commanders and prosecutors. The firings affected PJF offices in 21 of Mexico's 31 states as well as the capital, Mexico City.

According to a spokeswoman for the federal Attorney General's Office in Mexico City, the 67 PJF officers, including Commander Osorno in Tijuana, were dismissed from the force only because there was not enough hard evidence to put them behind bars.

"There were complaints about irregular activities by these individuals, and the complaints were of a nature that connected them to individuals involved in drug trafficking," the spokeswoman said. "Without clear proof, we could not consign them (to federal custody), but the information that we had was enough to order their dismissal."

Osorno had replaced Fulvio Jiménez as PJF commander in Sector 2, which covers the city of Tijuana and environs.

Jiménez was arrested in Mexico City a week ago, allegedly for providing protection to drug traffickers while he commanded Sector 2.

# 4th held in killing of cardinal

*Mexicans called  
'quite interested  
in getting him'*

By ERNESTO PORTILLO Jr.  
Staff Writer

A fourth San Diego County man suspected in the slaying of a Mexican Roman Catholic cardinal has been deported to Mexico, where officials want to question him in connection with last month's bloody attack.

José Gutiérrez Quiroz, 22, sought on a deportation warrant, was handed over to Mexican federal judicial police officers who wanted him in connection with the killing of Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo.

Officers working with Operation Alliance, a combination of federal and San Diego County law-enforcement agencies, apprehended Gutiérrez on Friday in front of a Chula Vista residence on Colorado Avenue, according to Jack Hook, spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in San Diego.

Posadas, the archbishop of Guadalajara, was shot to death at that city's airport in what Mexican officials say was a case of mistaken identity.

The assassins' apparent target was Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera, reputed head of the powerful Sinaloa drug cartel, who was arrested Wednesday in Guatemala.

Gutiérrez's arrest and deportation is the latest indication that Mexico's violent drug war has spilled north of the border.

"Mexican federal judicial police were quite interested in getting and interviewing him," said Hook.

Two days earlier in Chula Vista, Operation Alliance officers arrested Juan Carlos Mendoza Castillo, 21, suspected of being involved in the Guadalajara shooting. He was

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SAN DIEGO UNION  
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SECTION B1

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JUN 14 1993	
FBI-SAN DIEGO	

## Mexico

Drug violence spills  
north of the border

Continued from Page B-1

tupied over to Mexican federal police.

Two Logan Heights gang members also are jailed in Mexico City in connection with the case.

Juan Basones Hernández, 18, and Ramón Torres Méndez, 23, known San Diego gang members, were arrested in Tijuana. They are believed to have been recruited by the Arellano Félix brothers of Tijuana.

The Arellano brothers, who control drug dealing along Baja Califor-

Drug-related shootings troubled Tijuana long before the cardinal's slaying. As drug kingpins jostle for control of the drug pipeline leading to the lucrative U.S. market, killings have increased in Baja California and in San Diego County.

nia's northern border, apparently hired the gang members to assassinate rival drug chieftain Guzmán, investigators say. They gunned down the cardinal instead.

DEA officials said the Arellano

brothers are believed to be hiding in La Jolla and Friday night were the subject of "America's Most Wanted," a nationally broadcast television show.

Hook said he did not know if any

Sunday, June 13, 1993

leads in the Arellano's whereabouts resulted from the show.

Late last week, Guzmán was apprehended in Guatemala and was turned over to Mexican police. He had fled to Guatemala after the Guadalajara shooting, officials said.

Guzmán, who faces two U.S. federal indictments, also is believed responsible for an 1,500-foot cocaine-smuggling tunnel near the Otay Mesa border crossing. Police found the uncompleted tunnel this month while investigating the cardinal's shooting.

The drug wars between the two factions in Tijuana have been blamed for numerous shootings and killings, including some in San Diego County.

And in Tijuana, police are investigating the shooting deaths of two security guards whose bodies were found Friday morning.

State judicial police in Tijuana found the bodies of Manuel Ramón Márquez Sánchez, 19, and Armando García López, 20, inside a municipal police patrol car that was being used by the security guards, according to Martín Estrada of the state judicial police.

He said García was shot in the head and a leg, and Márquez was shot in the head, both with a .38-caliber handgun. Their bodies were found in a sparsely populated area.

No motive for the killings has been revealed, but two weeks ago a municipal police officer was killed in what Tijuana authorities believe was a drug-related slaying.

No connection has been made to the watchmen's killing to the wave of drug-related violence in Tijuana, but the cardinal's killing has caused considerable turmoil in Mexico, where the public has pressured the government to act with greater force.

Days after the May 24 killing, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced stiffer measures in dealing with drug dealers and money-laundering.

Drug-related shootings troubled Tijuana long before the cardinal's death. As drug kingpins jostle for control of the drug pipeline leading to the lucrative U.S. market, killings have increased in Baja California and in San Diego County.

In April alone, there were 13 killings — six during the Easter weekend — which police believe were drug-related.

And last August, two former Baja California law-enforcement officers were found slain in Tijuana. The former officers, along with two other people in Tijuana, were shot in the head.

NEWS CLIPPING

DATE OF ARTICLE 6/5/93

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SECTION/PAGE A16

SUBJECT 2 DIE IN

GUADALAJARA SHOOTOUT

FILE NO: 92C-SD-50684 SUBW

A-16

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

## 2 die in Guadalajara shootout

### Mexico police seek cardinal's killers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — A spectacular shootout in the streets of this sprawling state capital yesterday wounded the state police chief and left two people dead as security forces stalked the killers of a Catholic cardinal.

The clash began a day after President Carlos Salinas de Gortari announced a national war on illegal drugs and after police in Tijuana found an uncompleted, quarter-mile drug tunnel beneath the U.S. border.

City, state, federal and military police have been patrolling the streets of the Guadalajara area, sometimes raiding suspected smugglers' safe houses, since the May

24 assassination of Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo.

Late Thursday, a mixed group of police stumbled across several heavily armed men in a pickup who fled into a house in the Guadalajara suburb of Zapopan.

More than 150 policemen joined the shootout that continued into the early morning.

A military policeman, Enoch Camacho Pérez, and one of the suspects, Gildardo Anaya García, were killed, state police said. Among the eight people wounded was the state Judicial Police chief, Lt. Col. Antonio Bejos Camacho, who was grazed by a bullet.

Three people were arrested. But Jalisco state Gov. Carlos Rivera Aceves said it was too early to say if the group in the house was linked to the killing of Posadas.

Federal Attorney General Jorge Carpizo says the cardinal was mistakenly shot by members of a drug gang trying to kill a rival at Guadalajara's international airport.

Yesterday, Mexico's Roman Catholic bishops issued a joint declaration saying Carpizo's version seemed well-founded. "The hypothesis of a direct attack on the cardinal apparently cannot be supported," they said.

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Security forces have mounted a nationwide manhunt for five of the drug gang leaders, plastering thousands of walls with posters offering a \$5 million reward for their capture and running repeated television commercials seeking the same.

"This is a fight by Mexico against an enemy of Mexico and the world," Salinas said Wednesday. "That's the only way the nation will get rid of this dangerous defect."

He called for legal reforms to make it easier to catch and prosecute smugglers.

The U.S. government estimates that 50 percent to 70 percent of all cocaine smuggled into the country comes through Mexico.

The Mexico City daily *La Jornada* said that as of Thursday, police had seized 11 houses or farms, 11 vehicles, a speedboat, a yacht and two planes — a Learjet and a Turbo Commander — from the drug hands suspected of killing the cardinal.

Among the property seized are a ranch and zoo outside Guadalajara that allegedly belonged to Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán.



DATE OF ARTICLE 6/11/93  
 SOURCE LOS ANGELES TIME  
 SECTION/PAGE A7  
 SUBJECT MEXICO ARREST  
 REPUTED TOP DRUG KINGPIN

FILE NO: 92C-SD-50684 SUBW

LOS ANGELES TIMES

## Mexico Arrests Reputed Top Drug Kingpin

■ **Central America:**  
**Joaquin Guzman is**  
**believed to have been the**  
**target of attack that killed**  
**cardinal. He is captured in**  
**Guatemala.**

By JUANITA DARLING  
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

**M**EXICO CITY—The man widely believed to be Mexico's top drug trafficker and the target of gunmen who mistakenly killed a cardinal and six other people at the Guadalajara airport last month has been arrested, Mexican Atty. Gen. Jorge Carpizo announced Thursday.

Joaquin (El Chapo) Guzman was detained at noon Wednesday in Guatemala close to the Mexican border and turned over to Mexican authorities at the Talisman Bridge near Tapachula, along with five other suspected members of his organization, authorities said.

Guzman was wanted on charges of drug trafficking, murder and kidnapping. Displayed to reporters Thursday, he denied the charges. He added in mocking tones that he is just a corn and bean farmer who was sightseeing in Guatemala.

Guzman's drug organization recently has been moving in on the Tijuana territory controlled by his rivals, brothers by the name of Arellano. Authorities believe he

was responsible for the 1,500-foot Tijuana-to-San Diego tunnel, intended for smuggling drugs, that they discovered earlier this month.

Such activity was clear evidence of the causes of a turf war that in the past year has left more than 20 people dead in a series of spectacular machine-gun attacks. The most recent of those attacks, the May 24 airport shooting, led to the death of Guadalajara's cardinal, Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo. Gunmen believed to have been hired by the Arellanos to kill Guzman shot the cardinal by mistake, then escaped to Tijuana on a commercial flight.

The incident focused international attention on the growing violence and corruption associated with the drug trade here, inviting comparisons with Colombia and Italy.

Embarrassed authorities offered a \$5-million reward for information leading to the arrest of three of the four Arellanos, Guzman and his partner Hector Luis (El Guero) Palma. The other four have not been arrested. Authorities would not say whether the reward money for Guzman has been claimed.

"The Mexican government has shown its ability to respond to the shameful events that have moved the entire nation and will continue to respond with the effectiveness needed in these cases," Carpizo said, reading from a prepared statement. "The current investigation shows that it is possible to halt impunity and lack of public safety."

Authorities believe that from

their headquarters in Sinaloa, Guzman and Palma ran a full-service narcotics network, supplying customers in the United States and Europe with Mexican marijuana, Colombian cocaine and Thai heroine.

Guzman ran afoul of the cocaine multimillionaire Arellano brothers when he began moving drugs across the border at Tijuana. The tortured bodies of six of his lieutenants were found on a Baja California highway early last year.

Guzman retaliated with a commando-style raid on a Puerto Vallarta discotheque that left another half-dozen people dead. The presumed target, the youngest Arellano brother, escaped.

**T**hen came the airport attack that outraged Mexicans, who are fed up with the government's seeming inability to control the escalating violence and police complicity in the drug trade. A total of 22 people have been arrested in connection with the incident, including seven state police officers.

Under police questioning, Guzman said he was at the Guadalajara airport at the time of the shooting. He said a companion saw armed men and warned him. Guzman said he then recognized two of the Arellano brothers. In the confusion, he escaped in a taxi. The next day, he said, he drove to Mexico City and, two days later, to San Cristobal de las Casas in the mountains of Mexico.

Please see MEXICO, A8

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NEWS CLIPPING

DATE OF ARTICLE 7/4/93  
SOURCE LOS ANGELES TIMES  
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SUBJECT CARDINAL'S SLAYING  
HAD TIES TO SAN DIEGO  
BARRIO.

FILE NO: 92C-SD-50684 SUB D2

# Cardinal's Slaying Had Ties to San Diego Barrio

■ **Crime:** Deadly shootout uncovers unprecedented alliance between Mexican drug lords and a U.S. gang.

By SEBASTIAN ROTELLA  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SAN DIEGO.—Spooky. Puma, Popeye: the homeboys of the Calle Treinta gang earned their monikers in the old San Diego barrio of Logan Heights, a working-class enclave hemmed in by freeways, docks and a warehouse wasteland.

Stealing cars, dealing PCP, dueling for control of narrow streets, they established themselves as a fierce but unremarkable Latino street gang. That was until about two years ago, when the gangsters who hung out at the park on 30th Street underwent a chilling metamorphosis.

Recruited by a Mexican drug cartel, they plunged into an even more ruthless world south of the border, authorities say. They became traveling hired guns, international hit men sporting AK-47s and grenade launchers.

In May, Tijuana's Arellano drug lords dispatched an assassination team of about a dozen Logan Heights gangsters to Guadalajara to kill a rival narcotics boss, with the promise of a \$30,000 bounty to whoever fired the fatal shot. In a crime that has convulsed Mexico, they instead killed a Roman Catholic cardinal during a chaotic airport shootout, police say.

Six suspected San Diego gang members have been arrested. Mexican police, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and other agencies are working around the clock to locate more than a dozen fugitives and determine the extent of the unprecedented alliance be-

tween Mexican drug mafias and the U.S. gang members.

"This is the first time we actually have had hard evidence that a Hispanic street gang was recruited by a drug cartel to act as bodyguards, guard safehouses and carry out killings," said William J. Esposito, special agent in charge of the FBI's San Diego office. He added: "It makes apprehension and prosecution difficult when you get people running across borders."

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# GANG: Drug Cartel Recruited Hit Men

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Lured by the money and the action, as many as 30 Logan Heights gang members served as soldiers in a swarming entourage of the Arellanos, four flamboyant brothers from the state of Sinaloa who ran drug trafficking in north-west Mexico, according to U.S. federal officials.

"People get a picture of gangs very much located in pockets within a city," said Julius Beretta, special agent in charge of the DEA in San Diego. "This gives a whole new implication to gangs in America. This gang is international now."

Logan Heights is known for more than crime and poverty. It has cultivated innovative youth programs, a renowned public health center and bastions of small-business prosperity.

The towering Coronado Bay Bridge dominates the largely industrial landscape of the Mexican-American enclave of barred little stores and houses. The turf ruled by Calle Treinta (30th Street) centers on Memorial Park, near a light corridor where dealers and gunn, crack-addicted prostitutes pose and stagger. Defaced traffic

signs pledge allegiance to the gang: "Gang STOP 30."

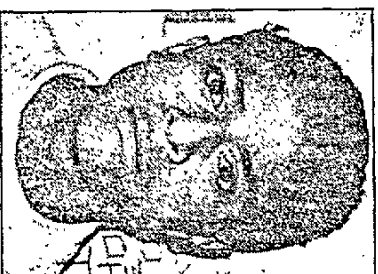
Police, counselors, friends and educators know of the gang members' capacity for violence but express disbelief at the revelation of their ties to Mexican drug lords.

"Usually they are feuding for geographic reasons, for real or imagined conflicts," said Lt. Adolfo Gonzalez of the San Diego Police Department's gang unit. "They shoot to kill for their barrio, not so much for dope or money."

Those arrested or implicated are as young as 17. "Puma"—an 18-year-old named Juan-Enrique Vazquez—surrendered to Mexican police in Tijuana about a week after the shooting, according to U.S. officials. In the neighborhood, Puma is described as a tall, thin, high school dropout from an impoverished immigrant family who was not necessarily beyond redemption.

"He was an OK kid," said a longtime neighbor. "But I knew he was not going in the right way. I used to tell him 'What's up, low-life? What's up, hoodlum?'"

Anita Morgan, a counselor who tried to get Vazquez to go back to school, described him as being



Juan-Enrique (Puma) Vazquez, left, and Alfredo (Popoye) Araujo, are among those allegedly involved in Mexican cardinal's slaying.

"lost" and "easily lured by money."

But she recalled how Vazquez, hobnobbing on crutches after being wounded by a drive-by shotgun blast at the park, worked last year at the local Boys Club in a summer job. That image is hard to reconcile with the alleged desperado who, according to Mexican authorities, admitted firing his pistol at rivals at the Guadalajara airport.

"If he was involved, how could he be involved in something so big?" Morgan said. "I can't see him being there."

Moreover, the slaying of a Mexican clergyman strikes a deep cul-

old Alfredo Araujo, known as Popoye, an alleged organizer of the fatal Guadalajara expedition.

Araujo's past paints a history of the Calle Treinta gang during the 1980s, according to court records and authorities. His first arrest, came 10 years ago for a brawl in which he took on 14 adversaries and left one with 10 stitches in the head. A lawyer appeared for leniency, describing Araujo a U.S. citizen, as an upholstery worker and city college student.

But records show Araujo returning repeatedly to jail for carrying a dagger, associating with gang members, violating probation, using and dealing PCP, carrying a false ID. He was at the thick of the war with hated neighbors such as Barrio Sherman and Shelltown, he witnessed at least two homeboys killed in shootings near his house across from Memorial Park, according to records and police.

Police describe the gang as one of the most dangerous and active in the city. "They are the worst gang in San Diego," Officer David Contreras said. "The most violent."

But in the past, the gangsters strayed from their turf only as far as Compton, to purchase PCP, which they dealt in small quantities, police said.

Like other Latino gang members, they generally regarded Tijuana as a place to carouse, espe-

cially Avenue Revolution, the garish tourist strip. Except for occasional skirmishes when rivals crossed paths at discos, a healthy fear of hard-nosed Mexican police kept them out of trouble south of the border.

That began to change about two years ago. Authorities say a legendary, tough ex-convict known as "Charlie," a veteran in his 30s who moved back and forth across the border frequently, became a lieutenant of the Arellanos.

Ordered to recruit gunmen, Charlie returned to the Logan Heights neighborhood. He and Araujo sought out younger homeboys, police say. The qualifications were apparently basic.

"They are shooters," said San Diego's Lt. Gonzalez. "They are not afraid to pull a trigger."

"Spook," was typical, authorities say. Described as an angry 24-year-old, Ramon Torres Mendez had served time for drug sales, weapons violations and a 1992 assault in which he fired at a man trying to stop gang members from stealing his car at a beach, according to records.

These who ended up on the Arellano payroll came mostly from Calle Treinta, although a few belonged to other Logan Heights gangs. They received weekly rans of up to \$1,000 and special training with an arsenal of AK-47s (popular assault rifles in Mexico known as "goat horns" because of the curved ammunition clips), firearms and explosives.

Please see GANG, A29

JULY 4TH HOMIE SALE SUN. 10-7  
20-50% OFF ENTIRE STOCK OF FURNITURE MON. 9-9



## GANG: Police Link Members to Slaying of Cardinal

Continued from A28

made launchers and other military hardware. Bounties for specific jobs ranged into the thousands of dollars.

Since early 1992, an unprecedented wave of drug-related shootings has flared on both sides of the border as the Arellano brothers and their associates, San Diego gangsters are suspected in numerous killings, according to law enforcement officials, including drive-by murders in Tijuana in which victims were sprayed from passing cars; the torture-slayings of six Shaolin traffickers in Tijuana last year, and the recent shooting in a San Diego alley of a Logan gang "member" for an unknown transgression against the cartel.

Arellano mercenaries also traveled throughout Mexico on contract hits, investigators said. Rumors even link them to the April slaying of Rafael Aguilar Guadalupe, a Juárez-based kingpin who was on vacation in Cancun when six assailants with automatic rifles cut him down, according to a law enforcement source. The trailblaze also killed a woman tourist from Illinois standing next to Aguilar.

The San Diego gangsters gained enough status to serve as personal bodyguards for cartel leaders. "When the Arellanos traveled throughout Mexico, from six to 10 guys always accompanied them," a law enforcement official said.

Corrupt cops and rich Mexican youths, known as "Juniors," rounded out the entourage. The homeboys hung out at the Arellano ranch on the outskirts of Tijuana, a palace of hoodlum-clubs with a private menagerie and billiard tables. Parties filled the night with Shaolin cowboy music and automatic weapons fire, according to neighbors.

Back in the barrio, residents began to hear rumors and noticed that gangsters disappeared for weeks at a time. Popeye Arayo was among those who relocated to Tijuana, authorities say. Vazcones was looting around in a new car, living it up.

"He was going to Puerto Vallarta, Cancun, Mazatlan," a neighbor said. "He had his little cellular phone, a pager, people with nice cars coming over. I thought, 'This guy is getting into it big time.'"

Although the cartel's free-flowing bankroll neutralized Mexican law enforcement, the forces of rival Mexican drug lord Jacobo (Chapo) Guzman represented a constant danger. A photo of Guzman adorned the wall of the bodyguards' crash pad in Colonia Chapultepec, a fashionable Tijuana neighborhood. "Don't forget, this face," the homeboys were told. One suspected gang member,

Juan Carlos Mendoza Casillas, told police that Arayo hired him in March at a disco on Avenida Revolución. On May 18, Charlie and Arayo organized a trip. As they passed out plane tickets at the Tijuana airport, Vazcones said "they were going to Guadalajara to kill Chapo," according to Mendoza.

A 21-year-old illegal immigrant from DEA agents arrested in San Diego this month and returned to Mexico.

Ramon Arellano, 27, led as many as 14 gunmen on the trip, mostly confirmed or suspected Logan Heights gang members inspired by the bounty on Guzman's head, according to U.S. officials. But after stalking Guzman without success for several days, the hit team went to the airport to catch a Tijuana flight on the afternoon of May 24.

The subsequent events remain shrouded in confusion and conspiracy theories. Statements to police by these arrested support the official version: that Arellano and Guzman forces ran into each other by chance at the airport and drew guns.

According to Mexican press accounts, Vazcones said he was tending to a drunk companion in the terminal when he heard shots outside, saw a man he thought was Guzman and fired his pistol at him. Torres also told investigators that he shot at Guzman, who was ac-

companied by armed escorts wearing federal police badges. Charlie and a man known as Guero, also believed to be a Logan Heights gang member, ran out to the parking lot firing automatic weapons, Mendoza said.

Simultaneously, authorities say, Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo was arriving at the airport to meet an emissary from the Vatican. As the cardinal emerged from his car, a gunman moved him down with a point-blank volley, according to authorities and Mexican press accounts.

At least eight of the Arellano contingent escaped with the help of airport officials in Guadalajara and Tijuana. Upon returning to Tijuana, Mendoza told police, he learned from another henchman that Guero had mistakenly shot the cardinal.

Conflicting reports cause many Mexicans to question how the cardinal, clad in his clerical collar and black clothes, could have been mistaken for Guzman, who survived the fray but was later captured in Guatemala.

Nonetheless, some U.S. law enforcement officials can envision the suspects making such an error. "You aren't talking about a military strike force; you're talking about a bunch of gangsters," an official said.

One man, Jesus Alberto Bayardo

Robles, was arrested falling-down drunk in Guadalajara the night of the shooting, according to Mexican authorities. Vazcones and Torres surrendered in Tijuana after the Arellanos promised handsome compensation for their families if the two took the heat, according to officials.

And police in the San Diego area arrested two more suspects in the shooting last week—Mexican nationals affiliated with Calle Treinta. They are being held on immigration-related charges, officials said.

In a sign of the unusual cooperation produced by Mexico's current crackdown on drug traffickers, a team of FBI agents flew to Guadalajara last month to interview suspects, according to officials. Investigators from several U.S. agencies continue trying to identify and hunt down more than a dozen fugitives, including the Arellanos and the gunman alleged to have shot the cardinal.

Despite the tragedy of Guadalajara, some younger gang members apparently have taken a perverse pride in the notoriety. A Logan Heights teen-ager approached recently by a police officer threw a gang sign and bragged that, among all the gangs in the city, the Mexican cartel had chosen his homeboys as their hired guns.

"If the mafia needs us," he said, "we're here."

## Wyoming Residents Sleight It Ain't So

JACKSON, Wyo.—Meteorologists had a snowball's chance in July of predicting the weather that hit northern Wyoming on Saturday.

Most Wyoming residents began the holiday weekend with sunny skies and warm weather, but pockets in northern Wyoming scrambled for their snowsuits. One foot of new snow was reported in parts of Grand Teton National Park.

The National Weather Service had predicted thunderstorms across northern Wyoming for Saturday. But heavy rains combined with a cold front to produce snow.

—Associated Press

## Aged Ham Brings Home the Bacon

OXFORD, England—It was a lot of dough for a piece of old meat. But, butcher Michael Feller seemed not to mind the \$1,480 auction price he paid for a 101-year-old ham, which he plans to hang in his shop.

The ham, cured by Cuddehay in Chicago in 1892, spent most of its existence on display in a butcher's shop in the northern city of Leeds, according to Christie's, the London auction house that held the bidding.

—Associated Press

## LAST 2 DAYS JULY 4TH HOME SALE

# LAST 2 DAYS JULY 4TH HOME SALE

# BONUS MATTRESSES EVENT

DURING OUR SEMI-ANNUAL "WE'VE GOT YOUR MATTRESS" EVENT

# Two more in custody in killing of cardinal

## *Mexico confirms arrest of Logan Heights pair*

By J. STRYKER MEYER  
Staff Writer

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is holding two more members of a Logan Heights street gang who are being sought by Mexican authorities in connection with the May 24 shooting at the Guadalajara airport, which claimed the lives of a cardinal and six others.

Names of the detainees, who were arrested in San Diego last week, were not available yesterday. They bring the total to six Barrio Logan gang members arrested in Tijuana and San Diego in the case. One has been released in Mexico. Three are being held in Mexico City. The latest two are being held in San Diego and El Centro and face probable delivery to Mexican authorities.

While U.S. immigration officials denied the latest arrests or refused comment, Roberto Machuca Aguilar, chief of the Jalisco State Judicial Police, confirmed in a telephone interview yesterday that U.S. authorities have detained two additional suspects in the slaying of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo, his driver and five others.

Machuca said that all information on the arrests has been forwarded to Mexico's attorney general, Jorge Carpizo McGregor, who is overseeing the investigation.

Authorities in Mexico and the United States have said that the shootout at Guadalajara's international airport was an attempt by drug rivals to assassinate Sinaloa state narcotics kingpin Joaquín "Chapo" Guzmán Loara. U.S. and Mexican law-enforcement officials say the attempt was orchestrated by Ramón Arellano Félix, one of three brothers who run a Tijuana-based

DATE OF ARTICLE 7/5/93  
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IN KILLING OF CARDINAL

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## Cardinal

### 2 more arrested in airport killing

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drug-smuggling ring described as the most powerful on the border.

At least eight Arellano gunmen opened fire, including several with fully automatic, Soviet-designed AK-47 assault rifles, Mexican authorities have said. Eight of the Arellano gunmen are known to be mercenaries hired from two of the more violent street gangs in Logan Heights. The young gunmen act as bodyguards and hit teams and have been armed with M-79 grenade launchers and M-72 LAWs (light anti-tank weapons), according to Mexican and U.S. lawmen.

"The two men arrested last week are undocumented migrants who have lived in the United States for a lengthy period of time and are Logan Heights gangbangers," said a source interviewed at the Metropolitan Correction Center yesterday. "They're being held on an INS hold. . . . One is here (MCC) and one is in El Centro" at the immigration detention facility there.

One of the suspected trigger men was arrested by the San Diego Police Department's gang detail in San Diego, based on a tip from agents of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, a source close to the case said. The other

was picked up at the San Ysidro Port of Entry by federal agents from Operation Alliance, a multi-agency anti-drug task force that operates along the border. Both were taken into custody without incident.

Last night, the names of the suspects were not available.

However, law enforcement sources in Mexico and San Diego concurred that the detained men had to be two of a trio with the street nicknames of "Popeye," "El Guero" (The Blond) and "Spooky."

"If they have 'Popeye' and 'El Guero,' they have landed the two most significant gangbangers involved in the hit on the Cardinal," said one U.S. law-enforcement source.

According to officials in Mexico's Attorney General's Office, "El Guero" is believed to be the triggerman who shot the cardinal. "Popeye" is the Arellanos' link to the Logan Heights mercenaries.

The man being held in El Centro was described as a hardened street-gang member who had tattoos over three-quarters of his body and a criminal record in Mexico.

Rudy Murillo, local INS spokesman, yesterday denied that the men were in custody.

Jack Hook, spokesman for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration office in San Diego, said last night, "We can't comment on any reports of suspects involved in this case at this time."

Ronald G. Orrantia, spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in San Diego, said, "We have maintained our liaison with the

Mexican government in this case. They are aggressively pursuing it, but we are treating it as any domestic investigation, which means we can't comment on an ongoing case."

Orrantia wouldn't comment on reports that three FBI agents flew to Guadalajara two weeks ago as part of the investigation into the cardinal's slaying.

Posadas' car drove into Guadalajara International Airport where the Arellano gunmen were expecting "Chapo" Guzman. In an apparent case of mistaken identity, they opened fire on the cardinal's limousine.

Twenty minutes after the shootout, Ramon Arellano Felix boarded Aeromexico Flight 110 for Tijuana along with Juan Carlos Mendoza Castillo, 21, an undocumented migrant who resided in Chula Vista, "El Guero" and at least five other hired guns, Mexican authorities have said.

After Mendoza was arrested in Chula Vista and turned over to Mexican federal officials, he allegedly told them that "El Guero" boasted to Arellano that he had shot and killed "Chapo" Guzman.

Only after the airliner landed in Tijuana, as they were ushered through a side entrance at the airport to avoid metal detectors, did the group discover that they had killed Posadas, according to Mexican authorities.

Staff writers Greg Gross, Fernando Romero and David Hasemyer contributed to this report.

4 • Insight • July 4, 1993

# Who's Next

There he was, wearing clothes appropriate for a hunting expedition, but looking very much like the prey Mexican officials had been looking for: Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera, the notorious drug trafficker wanted in connection with the slaying of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo.

Standing in a downpour in the yard of the Almoloya de Juarez maximum-security prison just outside Mexico City, the alleged head of the Sinaloa drug cartel denied he was a drug trafficker. While he admitted he was the target of the assassination attempt in the Guadalajara airport May 24, he claimed to be a corn and bean farmer and a food vendor in Sinaloa. Guzman faced reporters a day after his capture on the Guatemalan border in mid-June, in a strange quirk of the Mexican judicial system.

Although Guzman has been named as the intended victim, and not the perpetrator, of the shootings that took the life of the Cardinal and six others, Attorney General Jorge Carpizo called the arrest "an important piece" in the investigation of the slayings and chose the presidential residence of Los Pinos to make the announcement.

Guzman did the government a big favor in backing up the official version of events — that is, that the Cardinal was killed in a case of mistaken identity by a rival drug group looking to kill El Chapo. Carpizo has been aggressive in trying to discredit conspiracy theories that offer a variety of unproven explanations for the killing of Posadas.

The capture of Guzman, along with the arrests of top police officials linked to him and other drug traffickers,



Oswaldo Sagastegui

seemed to show the government had made progress in its promised crackdown against the *narcotraficantes* and in its effort to clarify what happened May 24.

But politicians and observers speculated on the whereabouts of the Arellano Felix brothers — the alleged authors of the Guadalajara airport slayings. And when, they wondered, will the politicians and government officials who must also have protected the drug traffickers start to fall? When would a true crackdown come?

"What happened to the aggressors, the Arellanos? No one talks about them anymore," said Sinaloa Deputy Gerardo Avalos Lemus, of the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution, in a published interview.

Likewise, a deputy from the ruling PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) from the same state, Samuel Romero Valle, told the magazine *Proceso* that the Guzman capture

is not a big victory against drug traffickers. "That will come when the (names) are known of their contacts with politicians, governments and police officials," he said.

"The authorities are interested in focusing the attention of the media and the public on El Chapo, when it is assumed that he is the victim, that he was the object of the aggression in the airport," said Romero Valle. "So the aggressors, the ones that had the police at their service, who shot at the Cardinal, where are they?"

The Attorney General's Office says it is searching for the others and is investigating all types of government officials for their alleged connections with drug traffickers — not just with police. Already, the head of Sinaloa's Judicial Police, his assistant, and top Federal Judicial Police officials have been arrested along with a variety of lower-ranking officers.

More police are expected to fall. Authorities say that current and former Mexico City police officials are being investigated for allegedly having freed Guzman two years ago after they arrested him in connection with a drug-

related shoot-out. Top officials allegedly received thousands of dollars in exchange for Guzman's freedom.

As part of the current crackdown, dozens of the drug lords' safe houses have been raided in Guadalajara and Tijuana since the Cardinal's death and hundreds of weapons have been confiscated. The effort comes after a four-year rivalry between the trafficking groups that has resulted in more than 100 deaths, according to media reports.

Police protection of the traffickers and their safe houses "wasn't anything that people didn't know," says Richard Craig, a professor at Kent State University in Ohio who follows the drug war. Rather, the arrests and seizures are a logical result of the killing of a prominent figure and widespread outrage.

Whether the government is serious about a real fight against the traffickers will depend on who is arrested in the coming weeks and months, he says. "I think the main issue is if we see any major politicians going down."

Another possible scenario, he says, is a high-profile crackdown against

some trafficking groups and some police officials, followed by renewed complacency. This, critics charge, is exactly what happened after U.S. drug agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was slain in 1985 — also in Guadalajara — with the complicity of police officials there.

Craig is careful, however, not to couch the issue in black-and-white terms. No government in the world has successfully wiped out drug trafficking, he says, because of the amount of money involved. The Mexican government has done more than some others in the last several years to make drug traffickers' lives more difficult.

In the coming weeks and months, it will become clear how much more pressure the government is willing to put on the *narcos* if it not only cleans out the traffickers' police protectors — something that has been done in the past — but also goes after the big fish in the government who tolerate and benefit from one of the nation's greatest ills.

BY LAURENCE ILIFF



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# A Question of Professionalism

## *Cleaning Up The Cops Is A Top National Priority*

**T**wo weeks to the day after the killing of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo, the federal Attorney General's Office, along with its Jalisco state counterpart, had what appeared to be a startling announcement:

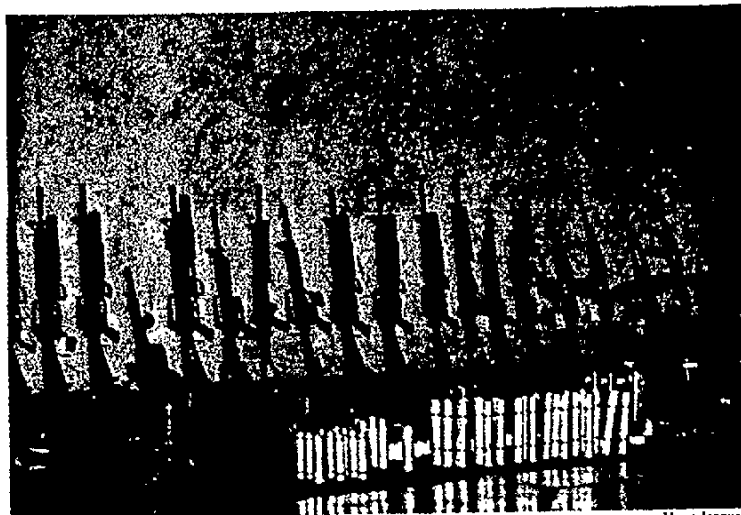
An investigation into the prelate's slaying showed that the director of the state Judicial Police, which is responsible among other things for fighting drug trafficking, and his top assistant allegedly were the paid protectors of *narcotraficante* Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera.

The state police director, Francisco Antonio Bejos Camacho, allegedly received bags full of U.S. dollars in exchange for protecting one of the nation's most infamous and most violent drug traffickers.

There was more: three commanders with the Federal Judicial Police contingent stationed in Jalisco also were allegedly linked to El Chapo, who apparently had a designated person to recruit police protectors and coordinate payments.

Perhaps most startling, however, was the fact that no one familiar with police work in Mexico was even remotely surprised. The news releases regularly churned out by the Attorney General's office, or PGR, on its constant drug busts throughout the nation often include the names of the police officers detained along with the drugs.

Of the more than two dozen people arrested in connection with the May 24 slaying of the Cardinal as of mid-June, about half were state and federal Judicial Police agents. Authori-



*Police Involvement: Weapons seized from "El Chapo" Guzman.*

Hugo Jacques

former Mexico City police chief was being investigated for possible ties to drug traffickers.

Attorney General Jorge Carpizo told the nation's lower chamber that there were "traitors" within the PGR.

The same office has offered a 5 million-dollar reward for information leading to the arrest of five narcos and promised informers' anonymity, while at the same time acknowledging that drug traffickers have infiltrated its operations. Informers would do well to heed what they tell informers in Colombia: spend that money while you're still alive.

The fresh revelations of police involvement with the traffickers may help Carpizo in his difficult task of cleaning up the Federal Judicial Police force he oversees. Others have tried to do the same and failed.

"There have been various attempts at various times to create a professional police force," says Sergio Aguayo, a human rights activist and researcher at El Colegio de Mexico. Those attempts in different parts of the country have failed, however, due to the government's failure to offer decent salaries and professional training to police forces.

Indeed, the government over the years has shown little interest at all in

creating police whose job is to serve and protect. "The police forces have been used to control people, not to serve them," Aguayo says. "The structure is created to make corruption easier."

The last attorney general to promise a police clean-up, Ignacio Morales Lechuga, liked to cite the number of officers under his charge that

had been fired or prosecuted. He put it at more than 200 of the 2,000 plus force.

Morales Lechuga, however, is now in the Mexican diplomatic corps in Paris, having apparently failed to do enough to end impunity and corruption within the Federal Judicial Police.

Named to take his place early this year, Carpizo may have better luck. The former head of the National Human Rights Commission has spoken frankly about corruption within his office and apparently has strong support for his clean-up efforts.

"Right now, Carpizo is having more success because there are groups supporting him," says Aguayo, who adds that those groups include human rights organizations.

The slaying of the Cardinal may create yet more pressure for a crack-down against corrupt police. But observers warn that all this has been tried before and failed. Given the bags of money the narcos can offer — and not just in Mexico but throughout the world — there are likely to be police from the lowliest officer to the highest director that succumb to the temptation to work for the other side.

# Carpizo

## Struggling To Beat The PGR So He Can Battle Crime

*Six Months  
Into His Term,  
Jorge Carpizo Finds  
Life On The Inside  
Of The PGR  
To Be A Nightmare*

Jorge Carpizo McGregor seemed the ideal candidate for Attorney General when he took office in January. The possessor of an impressive list of credentials in law, human rights and education, Carpizo has faced an uphill battle against police corruption and drug lords since he took office. Judging from his open struggle with the press and his plummeting public opinion, it appears the job has overwhelmed the man.

After nearly six months as head of the Attorney General's office, known as the PGR, Carpizo has made little progress in making a dent in either corruption or narcotics trafficking, critics say.

This slow start might have been overlooked had it not been for May's fatal shooting of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo, who was ostensibly mistaken for alleged drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman at the Guadalajara Airport. The incident showered attention on the pervasiveness of corruption and narcotics trafficking in Mexico and the country's blundering inability to rid itself of either. Speculation abounded that Mexico was becoming "Colombianized," a reference to the out-of-control drug trafficking and drug-related violence characteristic of that South American nation.

The capture of Guzman on June 10, after two weeks of headlines which shone an unflattering spotlight on Carpizo, spiffed up the attorney general's image before national television cameras as a

Alejandro Guzman/Exéclisor



*Getting Angry: Attorney General Carpizo is fighting one of the toughest battles of his life.*

bullish lawman who has pulled out all the stops in the war on drugs. But the moment's triumph may fade before the enormity of the task, which observers say requires no less than restructuring the entire federal police system.

"The problem of all levels of government in Mexico is lack of accountability — which we don't even have a word for in Spanish," says Mariclaire Acosta, president of the Mexican Commission in Defense of Human Rights. "There are so many *cacicazgos* (bosses with entrenched power bases) that the system has very deep roots."

Even his detractors say the resumé of the 47-year-old Carpizo, which includes stints as head of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), rector of the National Autonomous University and Supreme Court magistrate, is impeccable. But they add his highly academic background did not prepare him to deal with the ugly underworld networks of corruption, extortion and murder.

"Carpizo is a theoretician who lives in an ivory tower," says Ramon Sosamontes, the left-wing president of the multiparty Plural Foundation Committee that tracks police, human rights and justice issues. "He has never been a militant. In the CNDH, his opinions squared with his background. Now he's coming up against hard reality."

After Carpizo took over January 4 from his predecessor, Ignacio Morales Lechuga, he issued a series of goals, departmental assessments and administrative changes. Most of these, such as revamping his agency structurally, inventorying employees and computerizing police operations, are pending. He has talked of establishing a civil service and has promised to issue a report when an investigation into his department's deficiencies and corruption is completed.

To his credit, Carpizo has launched a number of offensives to clean up his own house. In the first few months alone, he dismissed more than 149 agency employees for improper or

questionable behavior and took penal action against nearly two dozen others. He changed regional PGR representatives in a third of Mexico's 31 states. He attacked the agency's backlog of more than 86,000 pending cases, many of them concerning drug dealers whose records were stolen or altered by corrupt officials. He has taken steps to get rid of *madrinas*, or shady police informants.

Universally, those who condemn Carpizo's supposed failure to tackle the problem of corruption and drug trafficking hands-on concede that the problem is enormous and has long ten-



"El Chapo": Guzman's (second from left) capture saved Carpizo's reputation.

tacles. "The PGR is a powerful structure, but the Mexican government is not that simple," says Diego Zavala, head of Amnesty International's U.S.-Mexico coordinating group.

No sooner had Carpizo warmed up the Attorney General's chair than drug dealers provided him his first challenges. In mid-January, 12 people were murdered and six more injured in the state of Sinaloa during a shootout between drug lords. Three weeks later, 24 peasants were killed in the state of Guerrero by members of another drug kingpin's group.

But Carpizo got tough fast. Soon after the incidents, he arrested ex-government bigwigs Mario Alberto Gonzalez Treviño, former chief of the federal judicial police (PJF) in Sinaloa, who is suspected of masterminding the murder of lawyer and human rights activist Norma Corona and others, and Adolfo Mondragon Aguirre, who is charged with taking nearly 700,000 dollars in payoffs. Carpizo

also issued warrants against Guillermo Gonzalez Calderoni, ex-PGR representative in San Antonio and former head of narcotics investigations and interceptions, on charges of "illegal enrichment," and Jesus Rioja Vazquez, a *madrina* suspected of killing five persons in Sonora.

Meanwhile, after arresting 15 PGR agents and three deputy commanders for torture, homicide and abuse of authority, and 58 other suspected *madrinas*, Carpizo himself decried his agency as infested with corruption.

But with all the arrests, there have been no convictions, and worried human rights advocates say this has made a mockery of justice. "Our concern is with impunity and whether it is being addressed — and we don't think so," says Zavala. "Carpizo has said he has charged 500 agents and commandantes (with human rights violations), but none are being prosecuted or brought to trial. That's really the only way to prevent abuses — to send a signal that if you're caught, you'll be prosecuted."

Zavala says his agency tracked 50 arrests of PJF officers in the border state of Tamaulipas alone, but claims all the officers were subsequently released. He says many of the charges were unrelated to human rights violations.

Moreover, the change of state PGR representatives represented "simply a game of musical chairs," Sosamontes says. "If you look closely, you'll see the same names on the lists as before, except in different states."

Police corruption is the core concern of many human rights advocates who say officers and agents must be trustworthy for the rest of the system to work. Human rights groups are especially incensed over Carpizo's apparent failure to follow his own advice — that is, the recommendations he issued to former Attorney Generals when he was CNDH director. Critics have cited 150 reports Carpizo sent to two Attorney Generals in two-and-a-half years at CNDH, many of them regarding alleged po-

Hugo Jacques/Excellior

lice torture and human rights violations which he urged be investigated; they claim that in numerous cases, no action has been taken since Carpizo took office.

Among Carpizo's more obvious blunders, at least in terms of backtracking on his stated viewpoints, was his reinstatement of vehicle checkpoints on highways throughout the country. The goal was to facilitate apprehension of narcotics and stolen goods, but critics say the move violates human rights, opens up citizens to police abuse and furthermore represents a reversal of the attorney general's own opposition to the practice when he was CNDH chief.

"It's anti-constitutional and a contradiction," says Victor Clark Alfaro, of the independent Binational Commission for Human Rights in Tijuana. "Carpizo said so when he was head of the CNDH, but now he tells us they're needed for the war on drugs."

Plural Foundation's Sosamontes says that the checkpoints might not be so bad if they did their job. "But they haven't stopped kidnappings, they haven't stopped highway as-

saults, and drug traffickers continue trucking drugs through the country, because —." Here Sosamontes arched his thumb and forefinger, a Mexican gesture that means "money."

One tacit goal which Carpizo has carried out flawlessly, to the annoyance of reporters and the chagrin of his staff, is tightening the flow of information to the press. Carpizo has not granted personal interviews to news media and has gone on to ban them for all PGR officials. The agency refused to grant interviews for this article.

A basic problem is that the PJF is neither well-trained nor well-paid, at least at the lower levels, says Sosamontes, who formerly headed the public security commission of the Federal District Representatives Assembly. An entry-level agent can expect to earn about 550 dollars per month, not enough to keep up with current prices. *Commandantes* do better, about 1,600 dollars per month, but by the time they are at this level, they are entrenched in the payoff rackets that pervade the system, Sosamontes says.

Carpizo has launched training pro-

grams, but this doesn't attack the corruption pyramids within the agency. Federal judicial police must pay their superiors for a good working station, Sosamontes claims.

Among the most lucrative are border posts such as Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, where agents can receive high payoffs. What happens to the honest ones, those who try to buck the system? "If you don't pay, you get sent to someplace like Tlaxcala," a quiet state that is said not to be lucrative, Sosamontes says.

One problem may be the expectations of those already in the system, Acosta says.

"It's very difficult to tell a bureaucracy that's never been accountable to anyone that they have to behave properly," she says. "If Carpizo is going to reform the agency, it has to be attacked from the bottom up, with PGR officials with clean reputations who earn good salaries and won't be tempted to take bribes, and new police agents."

By STARR SPENCER

## CARPIZO & THE PRESS: NO GREAT LOVE AFFAIR

Apart from his ongoing war against Mexico's webs of drug dealers and police corruption, one of Attorney General Jorge Carpizo's fiercest battles has been with the press. Days after he assumed his new post, it became apparent that the Attorney General was not going to grant personal interviews, and soon afterward, he banned interviews with PGR officials. Instead, he has communicated with the press through daily press releases and periodic news conferences.

The press is not amused, especially after the openness of former Attorney General Ignacio Morales Lechuga. During the first couple of weeks of Carpizo's administration, the PGR did not release any news bulletins or hold any press conferences.

"People were writing things anyway, and Carpizo was becoming angry at the things that were being published," says Guillermo Trejo Oviedo of the Mexican Information Agency, who has covered the PGR since 1949. "He doesn't seem to understand that we have a job to do. We couldn't just file nothing."

In April, the Attorney General held a press conference, saying that he had a list of "narco-journalists" who were supposedly involved in narcotics trafficking. While no charges were pressed against the targeted 6 persons, the allegations — reminiscent of the style of 1950s communist witch-hunter Joseph McCarthy in the United States — incensed reporters and led to criticism in the press.

"It was a blunder," says Victor Clark Alfaro, director of the Binational Commission for Human Rights in Tijuana. "If he talks about narco-journalists, why not narco-architects and narco-construction workers who built the underground tunnel?" asks Clark, referring to the recently discovered tunnel dug between Mexico and the United States that was to serve as a conduit for drugs.

Members of opposition parties, feeling Carpizo had unfairly singled out the press, urged a probe of "narco-politicians" and even "narco-businesmen." "Carpizo shouldn't leave out politicians and the private sector from his investigations," said Senator Porfirio Muñoz Ledo of the left-wing Democratic Revolutionary Party.

To the delight of his opponents, Carpizo ended up eating crow on the "narco-journalist" issue. Earlier this month, he stated that his list was without basis. Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu said the PGR knew of journalists who were filtering government information back to drug dealers but did not have enough evidence to prosecute.

PGR authorities privately say they don't understand why Carpizo is so anti-press. "It's embarrassing to have international news people come down here and have to tell them no one will speak to them," says one insider.

The information crunch isn't confined to Mexico City. Reporters or agencies outside the Federal District run into the same roadblock. "It's no better in the provinces," Clark says. "They always tell us we'll have to go through Mexico City."

Unfortunately, when these reporters call Mexico City, they are given the same news as journalists based in the capital — "sorry, we cannot comment."

By STARR SPENCER



DATE OF ARTICLE 8/6/93  
 SOURCE SAN DIEGO UNION  
 SECTION/PAGE A2  
 SUBJECT COLOSIO NOW SEEN  
 AS SALINAS' LIKELY  
 SUCCESSOR.  
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THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Friday, August 6, 1993

## Inside Mexico

# Colosio now seen as Salinas' likely successor

By S. LYNNE WALKER  
 Copley News Service



**MEXICO CITY** — The murmuring started almost a year ago, when Mexico's political pundits began to speculate that a financial wizard named Pedro Aspe would be the ruling party's candidate for president in 1994.

In the euphoric days following the conclusion of negotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), many said Aspe was the right man for the job of carrying out the economic initiatives of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

With a doctorate in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Aspe would keep a watchful eye on revenue and spending, political forecasters said. They viewed the secretary of finance as "one of the principal competitors to succeed Salinas in 1994."

That was then. This, as they say, is now.

With just one year left in his term, talk around town is that Salinas is eyeing Luis Donaldo Colosio to succeed him as president.

Colosio, who headed the Institutional Ruling Party for three years until Salinas named him to the Cabinet-level position of secretary of social development, has taken the lead among presidential candidates, according to political analysts.

An experienced functionary, Colosio runs the popular Solidarity social and public works program and is considered to be a middle-of-the-road candidate who could mollify the different factions within Mexico's ruling party, which is commonly known by its Spanish acronym, PRI. Mexico City Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis is close on his heels, analysts say, and could still get the nod as the PRI's presidential candidate if Colosio's political fortunes should suddenly change.

Camacho made an impressive showing in the Chamber of Deputies, where a poll conducted last month by the daily *La Jornada* showed that 21.4 percent of those surveyed favored the mayor, while 18 percent would vote for Colosio.

The mayor also drew a favorable reaction from Mexico City residents in a recent popularity poll of PRI contenders for the presidency. The Institute of Mexican Public Opinion, which conducted the poll, indicated that Camacho held a sizable lead over Aspe, who was closely followed by Colosio.

**B**ut Camacho's future rests on his ability to keep a lid on Mexico City, the world's largest metropolis, which has a myriad of problems ranging from air pollution to overcrowding to burgeoning unemployment.

Just last week, an explosive protest over proposed changes in the city's landlord-tenant laws drew 20,000 people into the streets. The march — whose size and intensity rivaled a protest over lack of government response after the devastating 1985 earthquake — and similar outbursts of discontent by Mexico City's electorate, could cost Camacho the presidential nomination, analysts said.

Researchers at the institute, who have correctly predicted the last three presidents, believe Colosio will be the PRI's next presidential candidate because he has the least to lose if NAFTA fails or Mexico City should come apart at the seams.

Vicente Fox Quesada, who is seeking the nomination as presidential candidate for the National Action Party (PAN), apparently agrees.

"Without a doubt, the finger is pointed at Colosio," he said during a recent session with the World Association of Women Journalists and Writers.

Chances are that Salinas will not announce the *destapado* or "unveiled one" who will be his party's candidate until December, or possibly

even January 1994. Political observers say the timing of the announcement — and the candidate himself — will be dictated largely by the outcome of NAFTA in the U.S. Congress.

But even without the complicating factor of NAFTA, picking the man who will likely be his successor would be a difficult task for Salinas.

**T**he Harvard-educated president, who has won the hearts of millions of Mexicans by traveling to their impoverished regions and doling out much-needed public works projects, will be a hard act to follow. None of the three top candidates for the PRI's nomination seems to have the combined political savvy and economic clout displayed by Salinas, according to most political analysts:

"The PRI's problem is that of the three possible front-running candidates, each one pleases one sector and displeases another," said Jorge Castañeda, professor of international relations at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

"Aspe has the support of the business elite, but the political class would be upset by his nomination," Castañeda said. "Camacho has a following among the political elite, but displeases the business class. And Colosio is acceptable to the political elite, but provokes a lukewarm-to-hostile reaction in the business community."

Those are the tough choices facing Salinas as he enters the final year of his presidency. His decision could very well determine his own place in history.

"If the new president does not commit to all of the changes that Salinas has made, if he does not believe that this is the only way for Mexico to prosper, then we're going to be in for trouble," said one political observer. "For Salinas, choosing the right person is going to be the toughest decision of all."

b6

b7C

# U.S. arms rampant in Mexico

*Illicit guns traced back to California*

By MARCUS STERN  
Copley News Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. law-enforcement authorities say that guns seized in Tijuana and Guadalajara after a shootout that killed a Mexican Roman Catholic cardinal and six others are part of a burgeoning illegal underground pipeline of weapons flowing from the United States to Mexico.

Many of the assault rifles seized in the aftermath of the Mexican drug cartel shootout in Guadalajara on May 24 have been traced by federal firearms investigators to gun dealers in Southern California.

"The majority of the firearms are U.S.-manufactured," said Jeffrey R. Roehm, a special agent who heads the international enforcement branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

"As for the firearms that are foreign-manufactured, there is a good chance that they were imported into the United States lawfully and then resold into the black market, where they found their way into the arsenals of the drug gangs, he said.

Because most of the illegal weapons in Mexico are smuggled there from the United States, the ATF is trying to learn how the guns seized by the Mexican government after the shootout made their way from licensed U.S. gun dealers into the

See Mexico on Page A-15

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SECTION/PAGE A1

SUBJECT U.S. ARMS RAMPANT  
IN MEXICO

FILE NO: 92E-SD-50684 SUB D2 032

## Mexico

Gunrunning from U.S. burgeons with drug flow

Continued from A-1

caches of Mexican drug lords.

Civilian gun ownership is strictly controlled in Mexico and virtually no civilian gun makers operate there. For that reason, most of the weapons in Mexico come from the United States, frequently through illegal channels.

Mexican authorities have given ATF officials information on 179 guns seized in the aftermath of the shooting, including four M-60 military machine guns, 11 M-16 U.S. military assault rifles and 36 to 40 Chinese-made AK-47 rifles.

While there have been reports of other military equipment, including grenade launchers, being seized by Mexican officials after the shootout, ATF officials said Mexico had not passed along any information suggesting such weapons have been seized.

Of the 179 guns seized after the shootout, the ATF has traced 58. Thirty-three were found to come from Southern California gun dealers, including 31 high-powered assault rifles, according to the ATF.

Many of them are AK-47s, the type of rifle used by the gunmen who inadvertently killed Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo during the shootout. The other two weapons traced to Southern California are pistols.

The weapons were seized during raids on "safe houses" belonging to the two drug cartels involved in the shootout, a Tijuana-based group run by the family of Benjamín, Ramón and Javier Arellano Félix, and a Sinaloa-based cartel run by Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán.

The fact that so many of the guns traced to Southern California are assault weapons has led federal investigators to conclude that cartel bosses have established elaborate underground networks to obtain sophisticated weapons illegally from the United States.

"Clearly, what you are seeing here is a pretty refined (gun-smuggling) operation," said Roehm.

In addition to the weapons from Southern California, 11 were traced to Texas and others to dealers as far away as Chicago, Kansas City and Miami.

On why only 58 of the 179 weapons had been traced so far, ATF officials cited the tedious, time-consuming nature of tracking weapons without a computerized system. Additionally, while praising the cooperation of Mexican authorities, they said information forwarded on some guns was insufficient to trace the weapons.

For those weapons that have been linked to individual dealers, including the Southern California dealers, federal investigations are under way to find out how the guns made their way to the cartels.

Roehm said it was unlikely that the seized M-60 machine guns were among the weapons smuggled directly from the United States. The M-60 is manufactured in the United States strictly for military use.

ATF officials said the M-60s probably were sold by the United States to a foreign government for military use and made their way from that arsenal into the black market and then eventually to the Mexican drug organizations.

Also seized were 11 M-16 rifles, a U.S. military assault weapon that can be bought through the international black market. The U.S. military left M-16s behind in Vietnam after the war ended in the 1970s, and many of those weapons have found their way into the black market in Latin America.

Last year, Mexican authorities turned over to the ATF information on 5,351 weapons seized there and believed to have been smuggled from the United States.

Mexico repeatedly has sought help from the United States in choking off the illegal supply of guns south of the border, and the ATF opened an office in Mexico City last year.

ATF officials say they don't know how many guns are being smuggled south into Mexico each year, but they add that, conservatively, it has become a multimillion-dollar market.

"We've always known there was a problem of guns going into Mexico," said Roehm. "But it started becoming a big issue when we saw the drug trafficking into the United States and the guns going back out."

ATF officials say the information on U.S. weapons seized in Mexico will help the United States track down gun dealers involved in black-market trading.

With only 240 inspectors to oversee more than 287,000 licensed gun dealers in United States, it is impossible for ATF to effectively monitor the dealers, officials say.

# Catean guarida de "El Chapo" Guzmán

■ En el Barrio de la Capilla, detienen a presuntos gatilleros y decomisan armas de grueso calibre  
Javier Espinoza Ramos

DIARIO DE LA FRONTERA

Varios agentes de la Policía Judicial Federal (PJF), efectuaron un cateo al domicilio de Alvaro Ruiz Guzmán, quien es presuntamente primo del narcotraficante "El Chapo" Guzmán y que fue aprehendido por policías de la Judicial del Estado la semana pasada.

Extraoficialmente se dijo que en el interior del domicilio de seguridad que se encuentra ubicado por la colonia La Capilla, los agentes federales encontraron varias fotografías del Cardenal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, quien fuera acribillado a balazos por narcotraficantes en Guadalajara, Jalisco el mes pasado.

Asimismo, se corrió el rumor de que los judiciales federales habían decomisado también un fuerte cargamento de armas de grueso calibre, además de diversas porciones de droga.

Pese a las versiones antes señaladas fueron confirmadas por vecinos de la colonia La Capilla, las autoridades de la Procuraduría General de la República (PGR) no informaron de los hechos, ni tampoco la Delegación Regional de dicha dependencia pudo proporcionar mayores datos sobre el cateo.

Unicamente se supo que la revisión de la casa fue ordenada por el Juez Quinto de Distrito de Nogales.

Algunos vecinos del sector de La Capilla, los cuales no quisieron identificarse por temor a represalias, dijeron que unos 10 agentes de la PJF rodearon el domicilio del primo del "Chapo" Guzmán, en tanto otros más penetraron violentamente a la habitación, la cual al parecer estaba abandonada.

Otro de los fuertes rumores que corrió por el ambiente policíaco, se supo que Alvaro Ruiz Guzmán y su lugarteniente Julián Alberto Aguirre Aguirre, podrían ser trasladados de Hermosillo a México Distrito Federal, versión que tampoco fue confirmada por las autoridades de la PGR.

Cabe destacar que en días pasados ambos presuntos delincuentes fueron capturados por los agentes de la Policía Judicial del Estado, en los momentos que transitaban por la Calle Elías a bordo de un automóvil tipo pick up, de la marca Chevrolet, modelo 1992, en cuyo interior se les halló un arsenal de poderosas armas, además de diversas joyas de gran valor y un poderoso equipo de radiocomunicación y teléfonos celulares.

Ambos sujetos se identificaron como agentes de la Policía Judicial del Estado al momento de ser aprehendidos, además de proporcionar el nombre de Alvaro Ruiz Sánchez, el cual resultó ser falso, ya que durante las investigaciones de la Judicial Federal se logró establecer el nombre verdadero y es Alvaro Ruiz Guzmán.



# Investigan Muerte del Joven Brambila

TLIJUANA

Agentes judiciales se encuentran investigando el asesinato del joven Alfredo Brambila, ocurrido el pasado 5 del mes en curso, en espera de encontrar alguna pista que los lleve al esclarecimiento del caso.

Declaró Honorio Bustamante Zúñiga, jefe de grupo del departamento de homicidios de la Policía Judicial del Estado, que a pesar de la poca información que se ha obtenido en relación del homicidio de Alfredo Brambila, de 32 años, que fue encontrado el pasado día 5 del mes en curso, sobre la cinta asfáltica de la calle Ensenada 2650, de la colonia Cacho, los agentes de la judicial del Estado buscan afanosamente una pista que los conduzca al encuentro de él o los asesinos.

Como se recordará, el hoy

occiso fue encontrado en pijamas sin una pantufla, lo que indica que fue sacado con lujo de violencia de su casa y ya muerto fue abandonado en el lugar, ya que su domicilio queda ubicado en la calle Villegas 101, edificio 4 a unas 10 cuadradas del lugar de los hechos.

Además al certificado de autopsia que extendió el medico forense, indica que Brambila falleció a consecuencia de estrangulamiento y ademas presentó golpes contusos y escoriaciones en distintas partes del cuerpo.

Bustamante Zúñiga, expuso que los agentes no han dado informe al respecto, ya que existe un gran hermetismo por parte de amigos del occiso lo que impide tener un punto de partida que termine con la captura de él o los asesinos.

El Herald

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10-16-94  
HERALDO

• No ha Sido Identificado

# Hombre "Ejecutado" Estilo Gangsteril

Por José Luis CORTEZ

TIJUANA.- Con las manos atadas atrás, al parecer con su propio cinturón, fue encontrado sin vida el cuerpo de una persona de sexo masculino, mismo que a simple vista registra dos orificios por proyectil de arma de fuego. Uno en la sien lado derecho y uno más en la mejilla izquierda. Hasta ayer la Policía Judicial del Estado, no tenía pista alguna sobre la identidad de esta persona que fue ejecutada al estilo "gangsteril". Los hechos fueron reportados por agentes de la Policía Municipal y la Judicial Estatal, Sector Playas de Rosarito, quienes indicaron que gracias a un reporte recibido habían encontrado este cuerpo sobre un barranco a la altura del kilómetro 67 de la carretera Libre Tijuana-Ensenada. Por las condiciones en que estaba ya el cuerpo, es decir un poco en estado de

descomposición, se presume que posiblemente tenía tres o cinco días de haber sido ejecutado. El hoy occiso, es de aproximadamente 1.60 de estatura, barba mediana, pelo negro, obeso, de tez morena clara.

Fue el Oficial Joaquín Delgadillo Huerta, quien primeramente recibió el reporte e hizo lo propio a las autoridades competentes para que se avocaran al lugar de los hechos e iniciaran las pesquisas. El cuerpo de esta persona desconocida, fue levantado por el servicio del Servicio Médico Forense y enviado ante el Médico legista para la necropsia de ley y de esta forma determinar las causas de la muerte, como tiempo aproximado de su fallecimiento. La Judicial del Estado, tanto de Tijuana, como de Ensenada, investigan este nuevo caso de homicidio al parecer por ejecución.

EL MEXICANO  
10-25-94

# Asesinado de un Golpe en la Cabeza y su Cuerpo Arrojado de un Auto en Movimiento

\* Se Encontraron Documentos a Nombre de Juan Carlos Vidal González de 31 Años y con Residencia en Bell, California  
\* Los Hechos Ocurrieron en la Delegación de San Antonio de los Buenos

10-26-94  
EL HERALDO

Un hombre fue asesinado al parecer de un fuerte golpe en la cabeza, y su cuerpo arrojado desde un automóvil en marcha, en el libramiento sur, a la altura de la tercera sección de la colonia Obrera, en la delegación San Antonio de los Buenos.

José Antonio Zápari-Chávez, jefe de seguridad pública en esa jurisdicción, informó que el ahora occiso traía documentos de identificación a nombre de Juan Carlos Vidal González, de 31 años de edad y domicilio en el número 4612, apartamento 42, de la calle East Florence, en Bell, California.

Agregó que el cuerpo estaba exactamente frente al yonque denominado "039" y yacía sobre su costado derecho, con los brazos extendi-

Por Rafael Morales

dos. Presentaba abundante emanación de sangre por las fosas nasales y la parte superior izquierda del cráneo.

En esta zona hay evidencias de traumatismo craneoencefálico, al parecer producido por un objeto contundente.

De inmediato se solicitó la presencia de las autoridades judiciales y llegó la ambulancia número 14 de la Cruz Roja a cargo de Felipe Contreras, quien determinó que Vidal González había fallecido.

Sus señas físicas son: 1.75 metros de estatura, entre 120 y 130 kilos de peso, tez blanca, pelo negro, corto; vestía pantalón negro, camiseta manga corta negra, calcetines negros y zapatos tenis del mismo color.

En presencia del agente del Ministerio Público del fuero común, Saturnino Espino Montes, se le hizo una revisión y además de la licencia de conducir se le encontraron en la cartera 2 mil dólares en billetes de 100 dólares y un billete de 2 dólares. Además, en la bolsa de la camisa llevaba 60 dólares.

Tenía asimismo un reloj al parecer de oro, dos esclavas, una cadena tipo torsal, dos anillos y un "beeper".

Aunque no hay testigos, se supone que la víctima fue arrojada desde un auto en movimiento, pues se localizó en el lugar un trozo de espejo retrovisor que al parecer pertenece al vehículo que la llevó hasta ese lugar."



Julio César Olvera Calderón fue acorillado de dieciséis disparos con arma de fuego en su casa de la colonia Libertad parte baja. El homicida se dio a la fuga. (Foto cortesía de Joel Ortiz)

# De 16 Balazos fue Ultimado un ex Comandante de la Policía Judicial Federal

\* Los Hechos Ocurrieron en la Colonia Libertad, Parte Baja

Por Rafael Morales

De dieciséis balazos en distintas partes del cuerpo fue ultimado Julio César Olvera Calderón, ex comandante de la Policía Judicial Federal. Al parecer el homicidio,

ocurrido en su propia casa, se derivó de una discusión por juegos de azar.

Carlos Argumedo Hidalgo, comandante del segundo sector de la

Policía Judicial del Estado, dijo que los hechos ocurrieron la noche del sábado, en el interior de la casa número 11417 de calle 13 y Juan García, colonia Libertad parte baja, en la delegación Mesa de Otay.

La víctima presenta dieciséis orificios provocados por proyectiles de arma de fuego: dos en la pantorrilla derecha, seis en el antebrazo izquierdo, uno en la mano izquierda, uno en el costado izquierdo a la altura de la tetilla, que al parecer le causó la muerte en forma instantánea.

Asimismo, uno en la pierna derecha, otro en el vientre, uno más en la parte alta de la axila izquierda y otro en la parte baja; uno en el bíceps del mismo lado y el último en el dedo anular de la mano izquierda.

Un vecino del lugar narró a oficiales de la policía preventiva en Mesa de Otay que se escucharon varias detonaciones de arma

de fuego y después, apresuradamente, salió de la casa un individuo de elevada estatura y cabello castaño, el cual se alejó a bordo de un vehículo Cherokee color gris.

Por su parte, los agentes de la PJE entrevistaron a Iván Villanueva Sánchez, quien es amigo de Olvera Calderón. Aquel explicó que entró a la casa ya que tenía llaves de ahí, y como creyó que no había nadie en el interior subió a la recámara.

Luego bajó en busca del teléfono y encontró que en uno de los cuartos, tendido sobre el suelo y en medio de un gran charco de sangre estaba el cuerpo del ex comandante de la Policía Judicial Federal.

Por cierto, fiel a su costumbre, el agente del Ministerio Público del fuero común Eduardo Madrigal Díaz adoptó una actitud agresiva contra los reporteros gráficos y pretendió obstaculizar su trabajo.